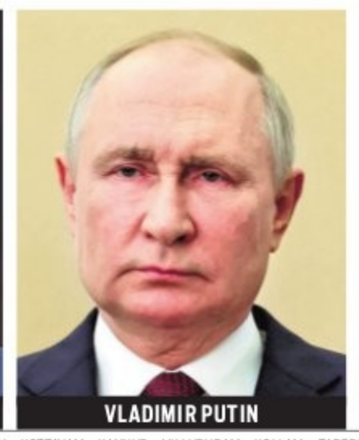
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • FEBRUARY 10, 2025 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

DONALD TRUMP


VLADIMIR PUTIN

DON SAYS HE SPOKE WITH PUTIN ABOUT ENDING WAR IN UKRAINE

US President Donald Trump said he spoke to his Russian counterpart to try to negotiate an end to the war ahead of its third anniversary. Trump told the New York Post he believes Vladimir Putin "does care" about battlefield deaths. "All those dead people. They're like your kids, two million of them – and for no reason," Trump said, adding Putin too wants to "see people stop dying". Asked how many times he has spoken to Putin after taking office on January 20, Trump said he better not say.

Manipur CM resigns hours after meeting Shah

Speaker Satyabrata Singh, minister Y Khemchand among frontrunners for CM's post

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR & RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ Guwahati / New Delhi

MANIPUR Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh resigned on Sunday, a day before the start of the crucial Assembly session in which he was to face a no-confidence motion.

Singh submitted his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla in Imphal on Sunday evening, shortly after returning from Delhi where he met Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The governor asked him to continue in office till alternative arrangements are made, the Raj Bhavan said.

The names of Assembly speaker T Satyabrata Singh and senior minister Y Khemchand are doing the rounds as Singh's possible successor.

According to sources, it is BJP's internal politics that forced Biren Singh to resign nearly two years after the state was torn by an ethnic conflict between Meiteis and Kukis that left over 250 people dead and 60,000 others displaced.

Biren Singh hands over his resignation to Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, in the presence of BJP's Northeast in-charge Sambit Patra and other leaders | ANI

Before his Delhi trip on Saturday evening, Singh had called a meeting with NDA MLAs. Only 20 of the 46 MLAs turned up. The 60-member House now has an effective strength of 59.

Singh wanted to see how many MLAs were with him given that many of the BJP's 37 legislators, including five who defected from JD(U), were demanding a leadership change.

Two days ago, the Congress announced its plan to move a no-confidence motion against the government. The Congress, which has five MLAs, was hoping to get the support of the BJP rebels to take the number beyond 10 as required for the no-trust motion to stand.

Sources said the BJP's central leadership did not want to risk an embarrassing situation where the disgruntled MLAs might side with the Congress, and so it asked Singh to quit.

The 'leaked audio tapes', in which a person taking credit for the ethnic violence, may also have worked against Singh as a forensic analysis showed a 93% probability that the voice samples were Singh's. The matter is in the Supreme Court.

The BJP was under tremendous pressure from the party's Manipur MLAs to remove Singh.

Sources said the leadership was growing impatient with Singh as the ethnic violence had begun to tarnish Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reputation for good governance.

Aero India a platform to showcase India's defence might, says Rajnath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CALLING Aero India an important platform to showcase India's strength and vision of becoming a self-reliant and secure nation, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here on Sunday that the event will promote global partnerships and align with India's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiatives. He was speaking at a press conference on the eve of the event.

Themed around 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities', Aero India 2025, set to begin on Monday and last till February 15, will highlight India's latest aerospace advancements, indigenous innovations and new products from global aerospace companies.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the curtain raiser for Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

"Aero India 2025 has surpassed all expectations, with over 900 exhibitors, including 150 international companies, and participation from more than 90 countries," Singh pointed out. The presence of defence ministers from 30 countries and air chiefs from 43 nations shows the importance of the event for both India and the global defence community, he added.

This year, the event will cover 42,000 square metres (up from 35,000 sqm last edition - 2023) and feature over 70 flying displays and 30 static displays. "One of the biggest attractions will be the participation of two advanced fifth-generation fighter jets – Russia's Su-57 and the US' F-35 Lightning II. This is the first time these jets will be displayed together, offering a unique chance to compare Eastern and Western fighter technology," he said.

'FELON' LIGHTS UP CITY SKIES: P2

31 Maoists, 2 cops killed in Ch'garh

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

AT least 31 Maoists, including 11 women, were killed in a fierce gun battle with security forces in the Indravati National Park region of Bijapur in Chhattisgarh on Sunday.

The encounter, which took place 450 km south of Raipur, resulted in the deaths of two security personnel and injured two others.

Bastar range IG Sunderraj P said troops recovered 31 bodies, which are yet to identified. The injured personnel were airlifted to Raipur, where doctors reported signs of bullet injuries and fractures. Doctors said they'll have to wait for 24 hours for further updates.

The operation was launched based on specific intelligence inputs, with a joint team of security forces comprising the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF) and Bastar Fighters, all units of the state police, tracking real-time locations of the Maoists for more than five days.

Security forces crossed hilly terrain before launching a massive offensive from different directions, surrounding the Maoists in the Annapur forest in the core national park, some 90 km away from the Bijapur district headquarters, on Sunday.

The forces recovered AK-47 rifles, self-loading rifles, INSAS assault rifles and grenade launchers from the encounter location.

This year, 81 Maoists have been killed in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh.

EXPRESS READ

Ed Sheeran's street gig cut short by city police

Bengaluru: British singer Ed Sheeran's impromptu performance at Church Street on Sunday was cut short by the police citing lack of permission | CITY EXPRESS: P1

Tourist bus catches fire on Expressway

Mysuru: A tourist bus caught fire on the Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway in Mandya on Sunday. All the 20 passengers onboard the bus managed to escape | P5

Delhi govt to be sworn in after PM returns from US

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

THE BJP government in Delhi will be sworn in once Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns from his visit to France and the United States.

Modi will leave for France on Monday, and from there, he will travel to the US, where he is scheduled to meet President Donald Trump. Modi will return to India on Thursday.

Sources indicated that the swearing-in ceremony will be a grand event aimed at showcasing the unity within the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The chief ministers of all BJP and NDA-ruled states are expected to attend.

On Sunday, BJP president J P Nadda met Union Home Minister Amit Shah to expedite the government formation process. Speculation is rife regarding the next Delhi chief minister. Several names are being discussed, including Delhi MLA Parvesh Verma, BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj, and party leaders such as Vijender Gupta, Rekha Gupta, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Satish Upadhyay, Manoj Tiwari, and Mohan Singh Bisht. Verma and Rekha Gupta are considered to be the frontrunners.

EXPRESS INTAKE

e-air taxi promises to change urban transportation | P2

Commuters launch campaign against Metro fare hike | P5

Rlys explores N-power option to cut fossil fuel usage | P9

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 10.02.2025 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Uttarayana
• Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Magha • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Thrayodasi 7.08 pm
• Nakshatra: Punarvasu 6.28 pm • Moon in Kataka Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

MIN 15°C | MAX 30°C
FORECAST: Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 06.43 am
Sunset 06.24 pm
Moonrise 04.31 pm
Moonset 04.55 am

Sukhoi Su-57 'Felon,' a twin-engine stealth multirole fighter aircraft of the Russian Air Force on the eve of Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru on Sunday | SAMUEL RAJKUMAR

'Felon' lights up skies, wows crowd

Russian Su-57 is 5th Gen stealth fighter

SAMUEL RAJKUMAR
@ Bengaluru

A huge multitude of Bengalureans, families of Air Warriors, Army, Navy, paramilitary forces held on to their nerves as the Russian Su-57, NATO-christened 'Felon' took off, not once but twice, to showcase the display of harmonic and menacing sorties during the final dress rehearsal on Saturday.

The magnificent maiden flight defined not just air superiority, but was a perfect blend of harmony and ultimate power that was the dream of many aviation buffs, who blended well among the thousands gathered to see the full-dress-rehearsal (FDR) in the afternoon.

Sukhoi-57 is a 5th generation stealth fighter aircraft of Russian origin that has already made its mark as a leading super tech managed fly-by-wire, new-age marvel in defence aviation circles. This Russian aviation brilliance is making its debut in this edition of Aero India, and no wonder India has already laid its eyes on it.

Rumours are rife and talks are on as Su-57 could be the next biggest addition to the IAF arsenal after Sukhoi-30MKI and the latest Dassault Rafale.

Leaving geo-political strategic power games aside, for the common man hanging outside on all sides of Yelahanka IAF base, this metallic bird in flight in the pleasant afternoon sun, performed manoeuvres which were nothing short of a Russian ballerina in the Bengaluru skies.

It was a spectacle never witnessed in any of the earlier editions of Aero India, and to watch it was to hold one's breath to witness poetry on aerial display, with a powerful note of strategic presence that could shift the dimensions of air superiority. If India could crack the sanctions deal and look forward to a superior IAF with a superior 5th Gen super stealth in its own arsenal before the ambitious AMCA project can take off, it would be a powerful addition and would put our nation on a superior edge in the Asia-Pacific region.

FEATURES OF AERO INDIA 2025

900+	70+	30	
Exhibitions	Flying displays	Static display	Display of indigenised equipment & technology

WE HAVE BUILT A STRONG SUPPLY CHAIN, SAYS RAJNATH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

RAJNATH Singh highlighted India's progress in defence production, mentioning that platforms like the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas and Light Combat Helicopter Prachand are now being made in India. He noted that India has developed advanced missile systems like the Agni, Astra, and Akash. "We are now capable of designing and developing major platforms and have built a strong supply chain," he said.

Expressing confidence in the growth of India's defence sector, he said the production is expected to exceed Rs 1.60 lakh crore by 2025-26, and exports to surpass Rs 30,000 crore.

Fighter jets and other flights at the static display at Yelahanka Air Force Station on the eve of Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

BBMP to compost dry leaves at 1k plus parks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WITH winter at its fag end and leaves continuing to wither, the Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited in association with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), will send leaves to 1,000 plus parks including Horticulture Department's Cubbon Park to convert them into compost. The compost will be channelled to parks and gardens in the form of manure.

Chief Engineer of BSWML Basavaraj Kabade said burning of dry leaves can add to the carbon footprint in the atmosphere and also cause fire mishaps.

"We have made arrangements for auto tippers in all the wards to transport dry and withered leaves to the nearest parks. The leaves will be converted into compost at the composting units installed at designated parks," he said and appealed to the public not to burn dry leaves and instead alert BBMP pourakarmikas or officials. In some areas, residents have composted tonnes of leaves without any support from the government or municipalities.

Anil Chinnaiah from Koramangala 3rd Block who has been running a dry leaves compost unit for the last 13 years said, "We spend up to Rs 10 lakh annually for maintenance. While the land belongs to BBMP, transport, maintenance and collection of dry leaves are taken care of by residents themselves," said Chinnaiah and added that about 500 tonnes of leaves are collected annually. "When composted, we get 350 tonnes. Farmers and people running plant nurseries approach our unit directly to buy composts. The same model should be replicated across Bengaluru," he added.

EXPRESS READ

Sub-registrar offices to work extra hour

Bengaluru: To clear the backlog of property registrations due to a major technical problem that slowed down the registration process on the Kaveri portal, Stamps and Registration Department mandated an extra one hour of work for its employees in all its 264 sub-registrar offices across the state. The order has been effected since February 6 and will continue till March 31. An official said offices used to function from 10 am to 5.30 pm but now employees are expected to work till 6.30 pm. Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps KA Dayananda told TNIE, "We have to clear the registration backlog. For the last one month, we have been facing technical issues. The integration of the Kaveri 2.0 software with e-astha and e-sothu had created many teething problems." He added that the last two months of every financial year are extremely busy periods for the department. "There is generally a surge in registrations before the financial year winds to a close. This fiscal the problem has been compounded due to the problems our system faced," he added.

K'taka signs MoU with University of Liverpool

Bengaluru: Government of Karnataka signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Liverpool to strengthen research and innovation, enhance educational cooperation, and establish a joint working group to drive this partnership forward. The MoU signing ceremony was held on Friday in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The move marks a significant step in enhancing Karnataka's global academic and research partnerships. The collaboration aims to advance knowledge exchange, facilitate academic mobility, and support joint research initiatives that will benefit both institutions and industry stakeholders. The agreement was formalised with the participation of key dignitaries, including Janaka Pushpanathan, Director of the British Council Division, British Deputy High Commission; James Godber, Deputy Head of Mission, British Deputy High Commission; Professor Tim Jones, Vice Chancellor of University of Liverpool. The MoU paves way for enhanced research and development initiatives, student and faculty exchange programmes, and will strengthen industry-academic linkages. It reflects Karnataka's commitment to foster global partnerships in higher education and innovation, stated a press release.

Annual plant fair to showcase exotic plants

Bengaluru: Association of People with Disability (APD) inaugurated its 20th annual plant fair on February 7 at the APD Horticulture Training Centre in Jeevan Bima Nagar. The 10-day event, which started on Friday and will end on February 16, showcases exotic plants and herbs. According to a press release, the fair will be open daily from 9 am to 6 pm. Visitors can participate in workshops on kitchen, herb, and terrace gardening, while simultaneously exploring stalls, sensitisation events on disability, and other fun activities. The event provides an opportunity for horticulture trainees to showcase their learning, skills, and creativit. A variety of exotic plants, herbs, medicinal plants, tree plants, aromatic plants, and more will be available for sale and display. All plants, arrangements, and artwork on display will be created by differently-abled horticulture trainees and professionals from APD.

AISEF hosts Int'l Spice Conference (ISC) 2025

Bengaluru: All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF) is all set to organise International Spice Conference (ISC) 2025 from February 24 to 27, under the the theme 'Building Trust Beyond Borders: Transparency, Sustainability, Confidence' at The Leela Bhartiya City. The conference aims to equip stakeholders with insights and tools necessary to inspire trust across every link in the value chain. Krishna M Ella, executive chairman of Bharat Biotech International Limited, will inaugurate the conference on February 24. As the global spice industry faces growing challenges, ranging from food safety concerns to misinformation on social media, the conference seeks to lead the conversation on building a resilient and responsible future for the sector. Besides, Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions to the global spice industry will also be presented during the inaugural session, stated a press release. Sonam Wangchuk, director of Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh, and advisor to SECMOL, will deliver a keynote address on day three on the topic 'Resilient Futures.' Emmanuel Nambusseril, chairman of AISEF, emphasised the importance of confidence, transparency, and sustainability, which are the cornerstones of a thriving spice industry. ISC 2025 is committed to addressing these crucial areas, ensuring that stakeholders can adapt to changing consumer expectations while fostering trust and responsibility across the supply chain."

SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE

E-air taxi promises to change urban transportation

ALLEN EGENUSE J @Bengaluru

AS Bengaluru grapples with perpetual traffic congestion, leaving commuters stuck in lengthy jams, Taxi Shunya -- an electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft -- arrives as a gamechanger, offering a swift, delay-free journey to your destinations. The aircraft, which is capable of taking off without a runway, can accommodate six passengers along with one pilot, has a range of 120km and requires just 30 minutes to fully charge.

Offering an eco-friendly and time-efficient alternative to road travel, the aircraft will make its debut at the Global Investors' Meet (GIM) 2025 which is set to begin on February 12.

Taxi Shunya, an electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft displayed at the Global Investors' Meet 2025 at Bangalore Palace Grounds | ALLEN EGENUSE J

Taxi Shunya aims to redefine urban mobility by offering a sustainable, efficient and quick alternative to traditional transportation. While the demo model will be displayed during GIM, the price of the model is yet to be decided by the company.

This initiative is expected to revolutionize urban transportation in Bengaluru, significantly cutting down travel time and reducing congestion on the roads

Sources

Designed by Sarla Aviation, Taxi Shunya is an all-electric air taxi that does not require a runway for takeoff or landing. Unlike conventional aircraft, it can lift off from any flat surface, whether the rooftop of a building or a remote rural area, making it one of the most infrastructure-efficient modes of mass transportation.

Officials within Sarla Aviation told *TNIE* the company will initially launch a commercial route between Electronics City and Kempegowda International Airport by 2028. "This initiative is expected to revolutionize urban transportation in Bengaluru, significantly cutting down travel time and reducing congestion on the roads," a source from the company said.

The officials also mentioned that Sarla Aviation is gearing to set up a manufacturing plant either this year or by early next year, which is expected to reduce manufacturing cost and directly impact overall cost of the aircraft.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

10th February: Sagittarius is my sign of the day. You might have been born when the Sun was in this most freedom-loving sign, but all of us have it somewhere in our birth charts. For everyone Sagittarius points to our need to explore our unique, individual places in the cosmos.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
There's an element of doubt as the week begins, but nothing you can't cope with. You should bide your time before tackling personal and emotional issues. Today is a useful moment for sorting out what you feel, an essential move before you try to communicate your desires to others.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
There's no substitute for a good, long look at the evidence, and facts may come to light very soon which could totally alter your way of looking at a particular person. However, it may now be too late to turn whatever you find out to advantage in your career.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
It's not always easy to relate to other people but partners and associates must take some of the responsibility for being out of sorts, or at least for behaving out of character. If someone has been getting on your nerves then perhaps it's because they need your help!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You should soon come to realise just how fortunate you are, but not this week! Your principle planetary pattern keeps your feelings on a knife edge, but then you're used to performing emotional high-wire acts. You might even teach the rest of us a thing or two about handling relationships.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Some kind of a financial commitment will have to be made soon, but it looks as if you have about three days' grace. Today you'd probably do better to focus on personal relationships, making sure that partners are on your side. Are you forgetting something - or someone? It might do you good to get in touch.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
If you need proof of other people's unreliability, you can try a number of steps. First, try to make them reach firm agreements and, second, persuade them to fulfil their promises. The message of the moment is therefore not to push partners too far, at least not if you want to hang on to their goodwill.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Helpful aspects from the Moon indicate that in the ideal world you'd be able to take the day off. Realistically the best you can do is try to infuse all routine affairs with a little of your unique creative flare. It's OK to repay favours, but don't let anyone exploit you!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Family affairs dominate your daily cycles, so will doubtless require extra attention, but what is very much more important is that you now burn up the brain cells, concentrating intensely on unresolved questions, gathering all the material you need to make the right decisions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Sometimes everything seems so straightforward; you may even have come to imagine that you know what's going on. Well, think again! Yet what seems like a cast-iron truth this week might look like complete nonsense next week, so tread cautiously.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Some kind of alteration in the working pattern of your life is inevitable within the next few months. The pressure in this particular cycle is building up now, and one of your major motives should be monetary reward. Perhaps it's time that you're paid what you're owed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You can afford to feel hopeful about the outcome of all events, both great and small. You must expect a few mood swings, though, and you'll have to try to match your feelings with your jobs and tasks throughout the day. If you succeed then you should allow yourself to feel a little smug.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Today's benevolent Moon makes for a pleasant start to your week, encouraging the more outgoing and original elements in your character. It is therefore time to break free and take your chances. If you're planning ahead, then put your financial commitments under the microscope.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

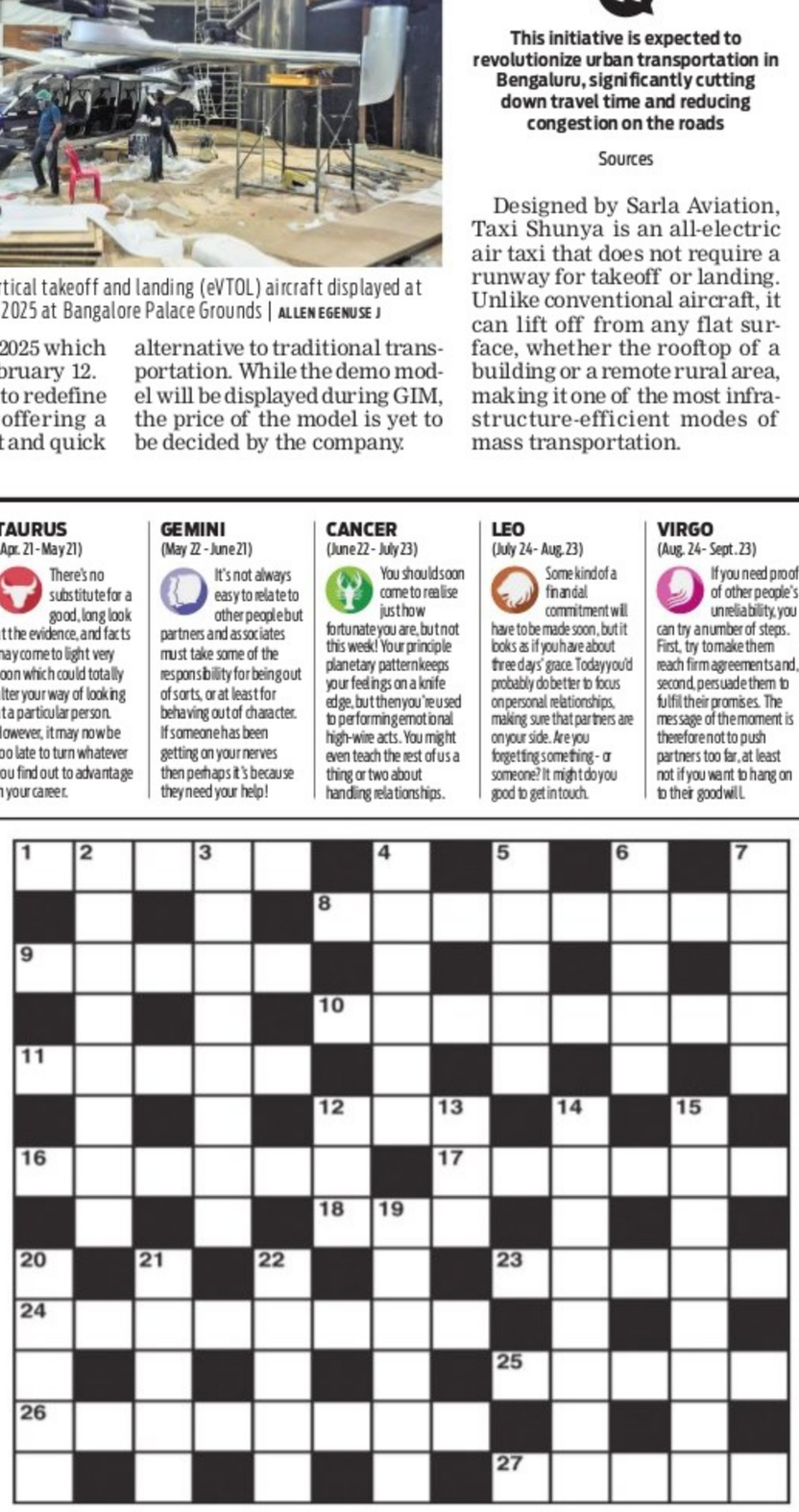
		2			7	9		
	4			3		7		
3		1	8		4			
	2	3						9
4								6
9						2	5	
			3		5	8		1
		8		6			9	
		4	1			3		

8	5	2	4	1	3	6	9	7
9	6	1	5	2	7	4	8	3
4	7	3	8	6	9	5	1	2
1	8	7	6	9	5	2	3	4
6	2	4	3	7	8	9	5	1
5	3	9	2	4	1	8	7	6
7	9	6	1	8	4	3	2	5
2	1	5	9	3	6	7	4	8
3	4	8	7	5	2	1	6	9

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Cold store base (5)
8 Definite sign of an increase (8)
9 Friend shown writing beside tropical trees (5)
10 Ready-made paper turned out crimson (8)
11 A solitary individual (5)
12 The most one can get in real life (3)
16 Neutral gear perhaps (6)
17 Shutter usually closed at night (6)
18 A deposit in the battery (3)
23 They blow as a tornado does (5)
24 Quarter-deck cutters (8)
25 Ship in river east of the Equator (5)
26 A lofty approach of course (4,4)
27 Hunt for a groovy way to decorate (5)

DOWN
2 An outstanding part of the country (8)
3 Warn a pretty girl about a Scotsman (8)
4 Stock controller's pen (6)
5 Quick - it's cold (5)
6 I take car around Norwegian inlet (5)
7 They may be strung up by the neck (5)
12 Cut in tax entitlement (3)
13 Member taking part in a relay (3)
14 Damnable food in which there's no good (8)
15 Stupid advice to those who worry unnecessarily (8)
19 Do song about child sponsored at baptism (6)
20 Law and order (5)
21 Sailor came up to the wrong dock (5)
22 Brag about a squash shot (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Victoriana, 6 Chip, 10 Eased, 11 Attribute, 12 Starfish, 13 Tithe, 15 Narrate, 17 Spelled, 19 Insider, 21 Rustler, 22 Havoc, 24 Civil war, 27 Supporter, 28 Reign, 29 Sure, 30 Idle gossip.

Down: 1 Vies, 2 Cash terms, 3 Order, 4 Imagine, 5 Notches, 7 Haunt, 8 Pretenders, 9 Listless, 14 Antithesis, 16 Abductor, 18 Lullabies, 20 Recited, 21 Reverse, 23 Viper, 25 Largo, 26 Snap.

JUMBLE UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

CAFYN

SWIKH

TBOMOT

RTYOWH

Flowers! Champagne! Wow, you really know how to impress a girl.
I wanted our date to be perfect.
WHEN HE TOOK HIS DATE ON A LITTLE BOAT, IT WAS ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " ○○○ - ○○○○○○ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: WHILE SAVVY EXCUSE FROZEN
Answer: The distance between Seattle and Tokyo in a jet is 4,782 miles, — AS THE "CREW" FLIES

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

KSIIDC

INVEST KARNATAKA

Aviation Led Growth to Foster Karnataka's Development

KSIIDC welcomes Delegates to Global Investors Meet - 2025

KSIIDC's Achievements.

- Kempegowda International Airport
- Kalaburagi Airport
- Bidar Airport
- Shivamogga Airport
- Vijayapura Airport
- Hassan Airport
- Bengaluru Signature Business Park (BSBP)

Shri M.B. Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development reviewing the development of Airports.

Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation has created a robust eco-system for civil aviation in the State

Bangalore Palace, Bengaluru
February 11-14

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

INVEST KARNATAKA

KIADB
LAND OF OPPERTUNITIES
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

KIADB WELCOMES DELEGATES TO GLOBAL INVESTORS MEET-2025

Join us at the Global Investors Meet -2025, where global industry pioneers converge to reimagine a sustainable, inclusive, resilient and tech-driven future. Discover new opportunities, foster strategic partnerships, and be a part of Karnataka's transformative growth story.

Shri M.B. Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Large & Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development at a progress review meeting with officers

Reimagining Growth

Invest Karnataka 2025 | Global Investors Meet | Bangalore Palace, Bengaluru | Feb 12-14

Inauguration on February 11, 4 PM

KIADB IS COMMITTED FOR CREATING
SMART, RESILIENT, SUSTAINABLE, INTEGRATED INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE
ACROSS KARNATAKA

Advantages of being in Industrial Areas developed by KIADB

- Provides excellent infrastructure and state-of-the-art facilities in its industrial area
- Offers industrial land/plots on absolute sale deed upon completion of 10 years of occupancy or 2 years of operations, whichever is earlier
- Offers encumbrance fee land in its industrial area
- Regular maintenance and upgradation of infrastructure
- Notifies industrial Areas for development of Plug & Play Infrastructure
- Industrial Areas facilitates cluster benefits by creating an ecosystem for backward and forward linkages

WHAT WE OFFER AT INDUSTRIAL AREAS

CORE INFRASTRUCTURE	SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE	SOCIAL
• Industrial Plots • Dedicated Water Supply • Road Connectivity • Solid Waste Disposal • Street Lights • Power Supply	• Gas, Telecom, Common effluent treatment plant, Solid waste management, Other Utilities, Common Facilities Center & Tool Rooms	• Green Spaces & Parks • Commercial Space • Skill Upgradation Centres • Space for public amenities, banks, hospitals, police stations, fire station, community halls etc.

Land Acquired & Allotted

Industrial Areas: 215 Locations
Single Unit Complexes (SUC): 625 Locations

Extents of Land in Acres:
Industrial Areas: 86,850
Single Unit Complexes (SUC): 79,020

Industrial UNITS: 24,215

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

SCAN HERE FOR REGISTRATION

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) | Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mr. Ananda Kumara N, Prop. M/s. SIn Communications, Also at: M/s. SIn Communications, 2) Mrs. Rangamma R	Loan Account No. 47039440000027 Loan Amount: Rs.4,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Residential Building bearing Grama Panchayath Khatha No.35/28/1 (Old Khatha No.35/28) and E-Khatha No.150300701601100051 measuring East-West: 6.096 Mtrs & North-South: 4.572 Mtrs is situated at Nidavanda Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562132 and **Bounded as: East by:** Site belongs to Basavaiah, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Road, **South by:** House belongs to Sooryakumar. Measuring East to West 6.096 Mtrs and North to South 4.572 Mtrs is situated at Nidavanda Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562132.	Date of NPA: 29-01-2025 Demand Notice Date: 07-02-2025	Rs.2,58,134.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand One Hundred Thirty Four Only) due as on 06-02-2025
2	1) Mrs. Suma S, 2) Mr. Subbayya / Mr. Subbaiah	Loan Account No. 34019630000271 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.84/1, Khaneshumari No.74, situated at Jalige Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and **Bounded on: On the East:** Property belongs to Muniraju, **On the West:** Road, **On the North:** Dalamma Temple Road, **On the South:** Property belongs to Muniraju. Measuring East to West: 24 Feet and North to South: 16 Feet.	Date of NPA: 01-02-2025 Demand Notice Date: 07-02-2025	Rs.3,44,549.80 (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Four Thousand Five Hundred Forty Nine and Eighty Paisa Only) due as on 06-02-2025

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 10.02.2025, Place: Bangalore Rural — Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

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IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE IX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALURU (CCH-05)

P & SC No. 612/2024

BETWEEN : SRI. VENKATASUBRAMANIAM VENKATARAMANAN S/o Late Venkataramanan C.V, Aged about 52 Years, Residing at # 1286, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, Lalbahadur Shastri Nagar, Ananthapura Further Extension, Anantapur, Bengaluru South, Bengauru-560085.

...Petitioner

And : Nil ...Respondents

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the above named petitioner had instituted the above petition under section 278 of Indian succession act to issue the order of letter of administration of asset of deceased Venkataramanan C.V who is the father of the petitioner in favour of the petitioner i.e., Venkatasubramaniam Venkataramanan.

Interested parties are hereby to appear before this Hon'ble court in person or by a pleader duly instructed **on 12.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M** to show cause against the petition filing where in the matter will be hear and determined.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Plot No. 82, Comprised in Survey Number 2/1, Situated at Sri. Shankaracharya Nagara, No. 61, Manavur Village and Panchayath Union, Thiruthani Taluk, Chingeput District, Chennai measuring East to West on the Northern side 53 feet, on the southern side 53 feet and North to South on the Eastern side 36 feet and on the western side 36 feet, in all admeasuring 1908 Square Feet, and bounded on:-

East by : Plot No.83, **West by :** Plot No.81, **North by :** 30 feet Road, **South by :** Plot No.58.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on the 03rd day February 2025.

By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Petitioners Counsel : **Karthik G,** Advocate **R & L Associates,** 1st Floor, KRP Building, Paramanna Layout, Nelamangala Town.

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE

Original Application No.214/2024

STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, J.C. Road, Bangalore. ...Applicant

Versus

Sri Achith Raj M. ...Defendant

SUMMONS /NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To,

Mr. Achith Raj M., S/o. Late Ganaraja M. S. R/at : Flat No. A-004, Lakshmidevi Enclave, Lakshmi Devamma Block, Ganganagar, Behind HMT Bhavan - 560 032.

Also R/at : No. 385 " ANU", 2nd Block, J. P. Nagar 9th Phase, BDA Layout Royal Park, Bangalore - 560 062.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debt and Bankruptcy Act 1993, against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.43,36,122/-** (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand One Hundred and Twenty Two Only) mentioned therein together with current and future interest and other reliefs. The above defendant is therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense within 30 days from the date of publication or on **20.03.2025 at 10.30 am** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **16.01.2025.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Bangalore
Advocate for Applicant Bank
Mrs. Malini Vinay

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

CAUTION NOTICE

No : VJP/MWD/EEE/2024-25 /F-270/4325 Date: 29-01-2025

1) KPTCL has Constructing 110kV LILO line with Lynx conductor from 110kV B.Bagewadi- Chimmalagi LIS line to proposed 110kV Sub-station at **Kanakal** for a distance of 6.702km in Vijayapur District. The line work is nearing completion and line will be charged on or after the date **15.02.2025.** The power line passes through Rajanal, Kodaganur, Byalal and Kanakal villages limit.

No : VJP/MWD/EEE/2024-25 /F-303/4326 Date: 29-01-2025

2) Construction of 110kV LILO line using Lynx conductor from one circuit of 110kV Indi-Zalaki DC line to proposed 110kV **Bhairunagi (Bhatagunaki)** sub/station for a distance of 7.269Kms in Indi Taluk, Vijayapur District. The line work is nearing completion and line will be charged on or after the date **15.02.2025.** The power line passes through Anjutagi and Bhatagunaki villages limit.

No : VJP/MWD/EEE/2024-25 /F-266/4327 Date: 29-01-2025

3) Construction of 110kV LILO line using Lynx conductor from one of the circuit of 110kV B.Bagewadi-Shahabad DC line to proposed 110kV Substation at **Yankanchi** for a distance of 6.816km in Sindagi Taluk, Vijayapura. The line work is nearing completion and line will be charged on or after the date **25.02.2025.** The power line passes through Sindagi, Mannapur and Yankanchi villages limit.

The general public are here by requested to keep away from this line and they are also requested not to tie the animals to the towers, not to throw green sticks, wires on the line, and not to climb towers of the line. KPTCL will not be held responsible for any accidents which may occur due to violation of the above said instruction.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer (El),
Major Works Division, KPTCL Division Office Complex, Bagalkot Road, Vijayapur-586109. Phone No: 08352-277748.

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The country has a strong and visionary leadership and if Karnataka also gets such a leader, it will become a developed and prosperous state, said BJP MP and former CM Basavaraj Bommai in Ranebennur, Haveri district, on Sunday

'CENSUS, PER CAPITA INCOME REASONS FOR LOW BUDGET ALLOCATION'

PIC: VINOD KUMAR.T

TEAM TNIE

FORMER chief secretary and ex-chairman of the Second Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission TM Vijay Bhaskar spoke to TNIE editors and reporters on the State and Union budgets, importance of having an elected local body in Bengaluru, cadre management and the recommendation made by the commission he had headed. Excerpts.

How are Central and State budgets changing over the years?
Budgets have changed after the introduction of GST, earlier there was scope to increase taxes, like sales tax. After GST, taxation matters are discussed in the GST Council. Now the state has control only on Excise, Stamps and Registration and Motor Vehicles taxes. At the state level, taxation has become less important. Budget is a policy document that lays a road map for the entire year. The chief minister is also the finance minister in Karnataka. Unless there is allocation for major schemes or projects in the budget, the government follows the same pattern with little changes. At the state level, there will be demand for new schemes to make the budget more interesting.

What is the process involved in budget preparation?
It starts with the Finance department, that estimates revenue generation for the year. The large amounts are for committed expenditure such as salaries, interests to be paid on loans, pensions, social security schemes, Central schemes and external aided projects. This leaves a small amount of uncommitted expenditure which is left to the discretion of the finance minister, who can announce new schemes or projects. The finance minister holds meetings with officials and ministers. Each department presents its expenditure for the year and also new schemes it wants to take up during the coming year. The CM and Finance department officials decide which ones are to be taken up, this is a political decision. Once this is finalised, the budget speech and budget estimation is also prepared.

What about Central budget allocation for the state?
Based on the Central budget, the State prepares a proposal. MNREGA, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and other schemes are committed expenditure, not much will change. There are three types of allocation, apart from externally aided projects, State-owned schemes which are completely funded by the State government, then we have Centre sponsored schemes, where part is funded by the State and part by the Centre, and the third is Central sector schemes which are completely funded by the Centre. Nowadays, major expenditure is for land acquisition which is on the State government.

Does Karnataka have enough funds for all developmental activities?
Karnataka has sufficient funds for developmental activities. Guarantee schemes generate revenue as spending leads to increased tax collection. When large sums, like Rs 50,000 crore, are spent, a significant portion returns to the state through taxes due to the multiplier effect. Karnataka has the second-highest per capita income after Haryana and Telangana, making it financially capable of such schemes. As the economy grows, revenues will rise. Additionally, new financing sources, such as asset monetization, are being explored, reducing dependency on taxes. The government possesses significant assets that can be leveraged for funding.

What are the challenges Bengaluru is facing without an elected BBMP Council?
Without an elected body, addressing local issues becomes difficult. Citizens need a direct point of contact for their grievances, and elected representatives play a crucial role in resolving small conflicts efficiently. While MLAs are present, they operate at a higher level and are often overwhelmed by the large population they serve. As a result, it may be challenging for local citizens to approach them for immediate concerns. Elected councillors, on the other hand, act as accessible representatives at the ward level, ensuring that local issues are addressed promptly. Their presence is essential for effective governance and grievance redressal.

The elections have been delayed due to legal matters like court cases....
It is ultimately a political decision. The Constitution mandates that elections should be held within six months. As the case is before court, we must wait for the court's decision.

After the Union Budget, there has been a feeling in Karnataka, especially among those from the ruling Congress, that the state got "chombu". What is your opinion?
The allocation to states is determined by the Finance Commission. The key factor here is the transition from the 14th to the 15th Finance Commission, during which Karnataka's share was reduced from approximately 4.7 per cent to 3.6 per cent. The primary reason for this reduction is the increase in our per capita income. The Finance Commission gives the highest weightage to the distance of a state's per capita income from the national average. Since Karnataka's per capita income has risen, our allocation has decreased accordingly. Between the 14th and 15th Finance Commission, new income from software and services earnings, which was not being counted earlier, started getting counted and per capita income increased. As the formula of allocation remained the same, the state got a lower allocation. We can say that our economic success has been the main reason for low allocation in the 15th Finance Commission share. The census is another reason for low allocation as we still depend on the 2011 census, post which a lot of migration has happened into the State, which is not being counted. Once the next census happens, our population will also go up and give us a higher share of total allocation. One legitimate grievance of the State is the 15th Finance Commission's interim recommendation of a special grant of Rs 5,495 crore and some state-specific grants have not been released.

What should be done to prevent tax evasion?
The three biggest sources of income for the state are Excise, Transport and Commercial Taxes. There is a lot of tax evasion happening. If one wants to build a house and purchases items like tiles for construction, in many cases only if the bill is demanded, the shopkeeper gives one. While registering properties, both sellers and buyers prefer to get part of the money in 'black' because guidance values are much lower than market rates. To curtail tax evasion, each department is given targets in terms of revenue generation.

What is your opinion on the microfinance issue?
Microfinance was started as a means to empower people, especially women, through Self-Help Groups and help them get credit at cheaper rates, and was seen as a poverty alleviation programme. It later turned commercial. While banks lend at 10 per cent interest, microfinance firms charge over 19 per cent, which is almost 10 per cent higher. There were two types of microfinance institutions (MFIs): those registered with RBI that follow guidelines, and the unregistered ones which do not follow any rules or procedure, and are the major cause of all the recent issues that have cropped up with microfinance. The ordinance the government is planning will help regulate unregistered and unregulated microfinance institutions. A large number of MFIs are registered and being regulated by RBI. Seeing their success, unregistered companies have been coming in over the past five years to make some quick money. All this did not gain much traction but now because of all the suicides, it has got more attention.

Why are so many people in rural areas taking loans at such high interest rates?
Regulated MFIs are doing good work. Unlike banks where loan processing duration is more, MFIs check a customer's credit score from the Aadhaar number and source of income, and sanction loans. In some cases, they sanction loans within hours. People take these loans for immediate business purposes. Once they get into the habit they take more loans, and have two or three loans from registered companies. When those avenues are closed, they go for unregistered companies. Easy availability of finance is one reason for this.

What kind of awareness must people have when they take loans from microfinance?
People must know what their repaying capacity is, and how much burden they can take. Nowadays there are many cases of online credit, online gaming, online gambling, where people lose a lot of money and commit suicide. Covid also had a role to play. Youngsters with nothing to do for one year, got into habits of online gaming, online betting and online gambling. The state government brought a bill to control online gambling. The issue is pending in court as gaming companies have challenged it.

Which is the posting you enjoyed the most?
I was in the Education department as Commissioner of School Education and Principal Secretary of School Education which I liked the most, and gave me immense job satisfaction. Education was the reason I could come up in life.

Why is cadre management becoming an issue? What is the solution?
Earlier, the intake of IAS officers was 140. In my batch, we were about 140-odd officers. This was later reduced in the early 1990s to 80. While in my batch in 1983, we had six officers in Karnataka, in the 1992 batch, there was just one officer in Karnataka cadre. This situation was there for about five years. After that the government realised this was not working and reverted to the old number. This is the problem in all the states. In IAS, one-third percentage is for officers who are promoted from the state service.

Is interest in civil services declining among younger generations?
No, interest is not declining, the pool of applicants has increased, but the private sector offers more opportunities and higher salaries so more avenues are available.

EXPRESS Dialogues

How do you view the changes since you joined as a probationer and became chief secretary? What differences did you see in political involvement and engagement over time?
Since Independence, the power balance has shifted from a strong bureaucracy to elected representatives. Initially, bureaucrats, with their ICS background, had more influence, but after the 73rd and 74th Amendments, and with more educated and financially capable elected leaders, power has increasingly moved towards them. This change has allowed elected representatives to better understand policy issues and provide stronger political and policy leadership.

Did you face any pushback or interference, or have confrontations during your tenure? Was it a common part of your official role?
In government service, differences can arise between officers and elected representatives. It depends on how they resolve these issues, keeping the people's interests as the priority.

Can you explain how the Administrative Reforms Commission's recommendations were implemented?
When I first joined the Administrative Reforms Commission, people believed the commission's recommendations would be ignored, but we made recommendations that are practical and feasible, based on feedback from officials. These process-oriented reforms, like improving service delivery or websites, were harder to oppose. Out of 5,039 recommendations, nearly 2,500 have been implemented or are under implementation, with continuous reviews to ensure progress, particularly in integrating technology for faster services.

Has technology helped to reduce corruption?
Yes. For example, under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, nearly one crore women got Rs 2000 directly into their bank accounts within a month or so, because of the Direct to Bank Transfer (DBT) scheme, without any middleman being involved. This is thanks to Aadhaar which is linked to bank accounts. Also based on Aadhaar, we have the Kutumba database, where we know who is below the poverty line. With ration cards, we have details of family members and their status. With the help of Vaahan, we know how many have cars and other vehicles. Through these, we know how many are BPL and to what caste they belong. This helps the government roll out schemes without any leakages or corruption. No one has to apply.

What special measures need to be taken to improve the education sector?
In our report, we said multigrade education is a big problem in Karnataka. The state should aim at single grade education as it is the most basic thing, by opening more Karnataka public schools.

Urban housing is a serious concern. How to address it?
Housing is one issue of concern, apart from inflation. The government can address housing issues by easing up planning restrictions. Densification is something the city needs. There is a need to be more practical and make housing more affordable.

I'M FRONTRUNNER FOR BJP STATE CHIEF POST: YATNAL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Davanagere

BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal on Sunday said he is a frontrunner for the party state president's post, and he has the capability of becoming the chief minister.

Addressing media persons, he said, "I have the capacity to become the state BJP president and after that the chief minister of Karnataka. My aim is to strengthen the BJP from the grassroots and bring it to power with an absolute majority."

Training his guns towards state BJP president BY Vijayendra, he said, "My agitation against family politics and corruption will continue. There is a need to free Karnataka from corruption and I will put my earnest effort in this regard."

Asked about B Sriramulu's decision to tour Karnataka to "unite divided minds in the party", Yatnal said this is a good decision and he will support it."

Yatnal also said after the completion of the programme at Rajanahalli, he will go to New Delhi for the house-warming programme of Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna. Asked whether he

will meet the BJP top brass there, he questioned media why he should disclose it?

"We are going to Delhi and will keep on trying till we get victory. Our struggle is not against the party, it is against family politics and corruption," he said. "Because of the BJP's clean image, we came to power in Delhi. Arvind Kejriwal, who was arrested on charges of corruption, has been rejected. Even in Karnataka, the corrupt cannot survive for long."

He also targeted the supporters of Vijayendra (without taking the names of MP Renukacharya and Madal Mallikarjun). "Let there be any type of support for Vijayendra, our attempts to change the state BJP president will continue," he said.

Vijayendra rushes to Delhi amid party internal turmoil

Bengaluru: BJP state president BY Vijayendra, who was supposed to attend an event in Davangere, rushed to New Delhi on Sunday evening. He is expected to attend a pooja at Union Minister of State V Somanna's official residence in Delhi. BJP sources said rebel leaders B Sriramulu and Basanagouda Patil Yatnal are also expected to be in Delhi. Sources also said state leaders are expected to meet the party high command amidst the internal crisis in the Karnataka unit. Over the past few weeks, many BJP leaders have been openly expressing their displeasure, embarassing the party leadership. **ENS**

SRIRAMULU TO TOUR STATE SOON, TO SEAL RIFT IN BJP

Davanagere: Former minister and Valmiki Nayaka strongman B Sriramulu has said he will soon tour the state to organise the BJP and to "unite divided minds" so that the party comes back to power with an absolute majority. Addressing media persons at Rajanahalli, he said the Delhi results clearly indicate that corruption will not be tolerated by people. "I am confident that the BJP will come to power with an absolute majority. I will tour all districts and bring everyone on the same platform. The aim of the tour is not personal, but it is for building the party," he said. **ENS**

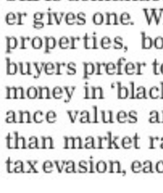
'BJP's factional politics will not affect alliance'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hubballi

BJP's factional politics will not affect its alliance with the JDS, said Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Sunday.

Responding to questions about increasing factionalism within the BJP, the JDS leader told reporters here that this was an internal matter of the party and senior leaders are addressing it. This will not cause any issues for the alliance, he added.

On the Delhi election results, he said this was expected. "AAP came to power on the pretext of



fighting corruption, but in the last ten years, it has done nothing. The lack of basic infrastructure in Delhi led to public anger and the people have made an appropriate decision regarding Delhi's development," he said.

Speaking on the controversy over the disputed land in Hubballi, allegedly encroached upon by the Congress, Kumaraswamy said original documents have been requested for verification. "Let's wait and see. The Congress has acted high-handedly by seizing the land. The truth will be known once we examine the proper records," he added.

Asked about Deputy CM D K Shivakumar's visit to the Kumbh Mela, he said, "It is a matter of personal faith. There is no need to interpret his otherwise."

HOLY DIP

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and his wife Usha take a holy dip at the Sangam in Prayagraj during the Kumbh Mela. Shivakumar's visit to Prayagraj follows his daughter Aishwarya's arrival at Kumbh Mela recently | x

EXPRESS READ

Chalavadi says Cong will stop guarantees soon

Bengaluru: Congress MLC BK Hariprasad's remarks that guarantees alone cannot win the polls and that the state government should focus on development have ignited a debate over the welfare schemes of the Siddaramaiah government. "The government has focused enough on the guarantees and should now turn its attention to the other promises in the party's manifesto, including the implementation of the caste census," he had said on Saturday in the backdrop of the AAP and Congress debacle in the Delhi Assembly polls. Taking a cue from Hariprasad, Leader of Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy taunted that the Congress government will stop the guarantees soon. **ENS**

X, FB 'restricting' posts critical of PM: Priyank

Bengaluru: IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge has claimed that social media platforms, including X and Facebook, were deliberately limiting or restricting visibility of posts critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the BJP regime. In a post on his X account, Kharge said this suppression not only undermines democratic discourse but also skews public perception by silencing dissenting voices. "I am increasingly convinced that social media platforms such as @X, @Meta, @YouTubeIndia and @Facebook are deliberately limiting/restricting the visibility/reach of posts critical of PM Modi, HM Shah and the BJP regime," he said. **ENS**

Govt to send clarifications on ordinance to Guv today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE state government will resend the draft Karnataka Microfinance (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Ordinance-2025 along with the clarifications sought by Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot to the Raj Bhavan on Monday.

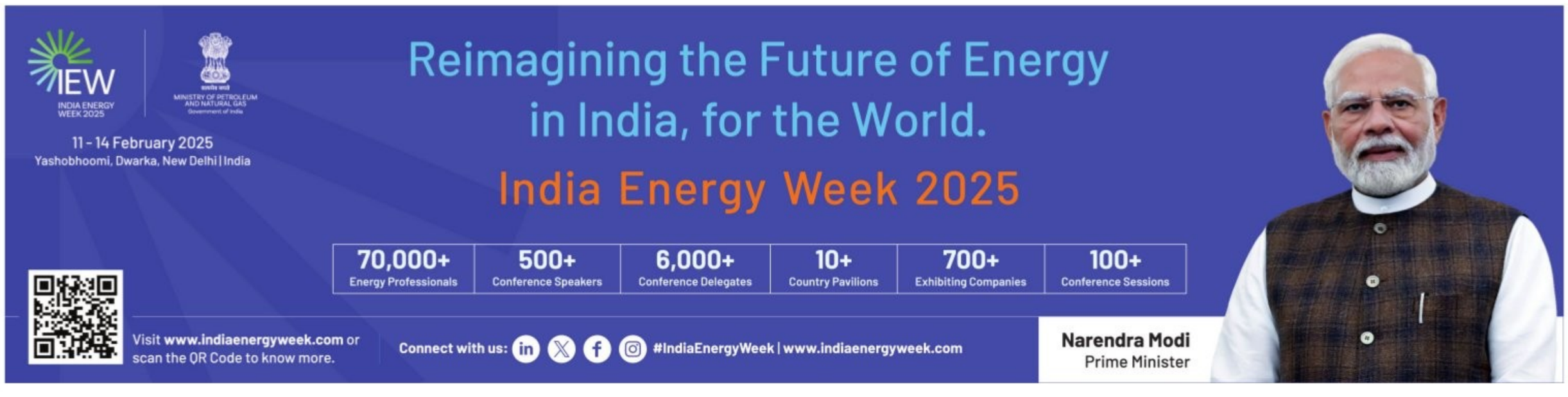
The governor had sent the draft ordinance back to the government on Friday, stating that it may have a negative impact on the business prospects of the state.

Ghelot had advised the government to present it in the upcoming budget session in both houses. The governor had also objected to certain issues, including the penalty and punishment.

Law Minister HK Patil had stated that the proposed ordinance does not curb one's basic right and it has not neglected the interest of lenders and restricted loan recovery. He said unregistered or unlicensed lenders cannot give loans or levy compound interest or penalty interest. Such loans cannot be given under law, and such cases cannot be taken up in courts either.

The communication was sent to the Chief Minister's Office, which approved the clarifications given by Patil. Sources from Patil's office said they are resending the draft ordinance to the governor's office on Monday for approval.

A 42-year-old truck driver, Syed Mehboob, was stabbed to death over a financial dispute in Akashvani Layout, Hegde Nagar, on Saturday morning. The police have launched a manhunt to nab the assailants, identified as Khaaliya from Tamil Nadu and Raju of Sampigehalli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Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

'METRO FARE ALMOST DOUBLE ON OUR ROUTES AFTER HIKE'

Commuters: Fare structure should have remained as it was, based on actual distance

The requirement of maintaining a minimum balance of Rs 90 on travel cards drew criticism from commuters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE first day of the hiked Metro fares saw frustrated commuters, with many vowing that they would avoid using the service henceforth. The requirement of maintaining a minimum balance of Rs 90 on travel cards also drew criticism.

Sreejith S Pai, a Metro commuter who works as senior manager at Oracle, expressed concern over the implementation of the fare hikes. He told TNIE, "Previously, fare stages were Rs 10, 15, 18, 20, 23, 25, 30, 35, and so on. Now, the fare stages are Rs 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 and so on. The fare structure should have remained as it was, based on the actual distance, rather than grouping the distances into ranges like 0-2 km, 2-4 km, 4-6 km," he explained.

Pai, who regularly takes the Metro from Whitefield (Kadugodi) to KR Pura, and then takes a Metro feeder bus to Kadubeesanahalli pointed out how his fare doubled from Rs 33.25 to Rs 60. "It will cost around Rs 50 every day from now on. Although BMRCL claims an average 45% hike, fares have increased from 70% to 110%," he added.

Piyush Sharma, an IT professional, stated that he would no longer use the Metro. "I take the Metro during the weekends, when I go to meet my friends. I usually park my bicycle at Satya Sai station but on Sunday, I was barred from parking, forcing me to return home and walk to the Pattandur Agrahara station. I went up to Baiyappanahalli and my fare was Rs 60. It used to be Rs 38 earlier. The fare hike will affect the middle class the most," he said and added that he had a tough time walking on the broken footpaths at Pattandur. "Given the high fares and these inconveniences, it is simply not worth travelling by Metro anymore," he said.

Blogger Niranjana also voiced frustration on X, saying "Maintaining a Rs 90 minimum balance is a joke. It's becoming too expensive to travel by Metro. This isn't feasible for the common man." Besides, many commuters demanded to know why BMRCL had hiked the minimum balance.

A Metro official explained that the Rs 90 minimum balance is necessary because the new maximum fare is Rs 90. "This ensures commuters don't have to top up their card while exiting, which could cause crowding," he explained.

We are still way cheaper than autos, taxis in B'luru: BMRCL

Bengaluru Metro officials pointed out that even with the hike, it remained cheaper than autos or taxis for commuting in Bengaluru. Releasing a detailed chart, it pointed out that for a 2 km distance, Metro travel costs only Rs 10, while the same distance by auto is Rs 30 and taxi Rs 100. For a distance of 25-30 km, Metro now charges Rs 90, while the auto fare comes to Rs 390 to Rs 450 while taxis charge between Rs 676 and Rs 748, it said. The minimum distance fare in a BMTC AC bus came to Rs 15, while it charged Rs 50 for over 25 km. The non-AC bus fare is the cheapest with the minimum fare at Rs 6 and Rs 30 for over 26 km.

Commuters launch campaign against fare hike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH the revised fare for Bengaluru Metro, coming into effect from Sunday, turning out to be the costliest among all Metros, netizens on Sunday launched a #RevokeMetroFareHike campaign on social media. Bengaluru MPs reiterated that the fare hike is steep and unjustified.

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya posted on X, "Karnataka government instead of incentivising public transport and discouraging private vehicles, is doing the exact opposite with the Metro fare hike. Bengaluru Metro fares should be at par with other metros in the country. While commuters in Delhi pay Rs 30 for a 12 km ride, Bengaluru will have to pay Rs 60 - double the amount. A 50% hike with maximum fare going from Rs 60 to Rs 90 is totally unjustified." No other metro in the country charges this high, nothing beyond Rs 60 and the hike is extremely steep, he added.

Billing it as "an unfair burden", Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan demanded transparency and demanded that the Fare Fixation Committee Report be published. "BMRCL must introduce monthly, quarterly and annual passes to reduce the commuters' financial burden. This will promote public transport use, reward loyalty with discounts and provide BMRCL with low-cost working capital," he suggested.

Costliest fare of all Metro networks

Among the important Metro networks in the country, Kolkata Metro offers the cheapest travel with the minimum fare at Rs 5 and the maximum at Rs 50. Its maximum fare for travel beyond 25 km up to 30 km is just Rs 25. Comparatively, Chennai Metro charges Rs 50 for 25 km, Delhi Metro Rs 60 while Bengaluru Metro's new fare now charges Rs 90.

BMRCL'S YELLOW LINE TO BE LAUNCHED BY APRIL OR MAY

Bengaluru: With the second driverless train from Titagarh in West Bengal reaching Bengaluru's Hebbagodi depot on Sunday morning after a delay of 19 days, hopes of commercial operations on the Yellow Line have surged again. BMRCL has now announced a new launch date of April-end or mid-May for the 19.15-km line. BMRCL Managing Director Maheswar Rao told TNIE, "We hope to launch operations on the Yellow Line by the end of April or mid May." The first train from China arrived at Bengaluru on February 14, 2024 via Chennai port, and it has taken nearly a year for the second one (manufactured domestically by its partner Titagarh Rail Systems) to reach the city. An official statement from BMRCL said the third train from Titagarh is expected by the end of March. "After completing signal tests, we will conduct the Multiple train testing." The earlier deadline for the third train was February-end.

Couple dies as truck hits bike

ENS @ Bengaluru

A COUPLE died on the spot after a cement mixer truck collided with their two-wheeler and crushed them. The incident took place near Kodipalya Circle in the Kengeri Traffic police station limits on Sunday.

The deceased, Abdul Basha (68) and his wife Sabana Begum (55) were residents of KG Halli. The police arrested the truck driver, Pritam Chauhan (35) from Jharkhand, in connection with the accident.

The police stated that, Basha and his wife Sabana were traveling on their two-wheeler from KG Halli to the dargah in Konasandra, Uttarahalli. A truck was also moving along the same route. Near Kodipalya Circle, Basha attempted to turn right towards the dargah, and the speeding truck collided with their bike from behind. The couple fell to the ground, and the truck's wheels ran over them, causing severe blood loss, the police said. The police further added that after hitting the bike, the driver lost control of the truck and dragged the two-wheeler for nearly 200 meters. The accident was captured on a nearby shop's CCTV camera.

LOAN TRAP

CCB cops book couple for charging high interest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CENTRAL Crime Branch (CCB) police registered a case against a couple for allegedly harassing a woman for payment of additional interest, despite having already collected Rs 3.80 lakh as interest on a loan of Rs 1.60 lakh.

According to the FIR, Samreen, a resident of KM Colony, Jayanagar, had taken a loan of Rs 1.60 lakh from Shashindra and her husband Ashok in July 2021, at an interest rate of 5 per cent per month, for her sister's wedding. She secured the loan with the help of her relative, Mohammad Rafiq. At the time of borrowing, both Samreen and Rafiq had given one blank cheque each to Shashindra as security.

Over the next one-and-half years, Samreen paid Rs 8,000 per month as interest, totalling approximately Rs 1.44 lakh. However, she later struggled to make timely interest payments. When there were delays, Shashindra allegedly called Samreen and verbally abused her. Samreen visited Shashindra's house multiple times, requesting to repay only the principal amount as she could no longer afford the high interest. However, she refused to waive the interest. Eventually, Samreen agreed to pay Rs 10,000 towards the principal and Rs 5,000 as interest every month, totalling Rs 15,000, as mentioned in the complaint.

She added that since November 2023, Rs 15,000 was paid to Shashindra online every month. By May 24, 2024, a total of Rs 1.86 lakh had been paid as interest. Meanwhile, Shashindra also took Rs 50,000 in cash from Samreen, claiming it was for tax payments. In total, Rs 3.80 lakh was collected as interest on the Rs 1.60 lakh loan.

Police said the case was registered based on a complaint filed by Gangadhar, the cooperative deputy registrar, against Shashindra and Ashok. The couple was allegedly involved in illegal high-interest money lending for several years. They would take security documents while issuing loans and misuse blank cheques. The complainant accused the couple of operating without any legal permission, police added. A case was booked under the Karnataka Prohibition of Charging Exorbitant Interest Act.

Karnataka Medical Council
No, 16/6, 2nd Floor, Miller Tank Bed Area,
Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru -560052
Tel:080-2220 0888 Email: kmcenq@gmail.com

Notice for the appointment of
Registrar & Deputy Registrar (One post each) of Karnataka Medical Council
No. 16/6, 2nd Floor, Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasanthnagar.
As per section 11 of KMR Act.

As per the decision of the meeting of the Karnataka Medical Council held on 12/1/2025 here by calling for the post of Registrar & Deputy Registrar (One post each) of Karnataka Medical Council.

Section 11 of KMR Act
Registrar and Officers.-
1. The Medical Council shall appoint a Registrar and Deputy Registrar for a **term of three years.** In the absence of the Registrar, the Deputy Registrar shall act in his place.
2. Any order of the Medical Council appointing or dismissing a Registrar or Deputy Registrar or appointing to act as registrar or Deputy Registrar shall be subject to the previous approval of the State Government.
3. The Registrar and Deputy Registrar shall be paid by the Medical Council such salary and allowances as it may from time to time determine.
4. The Medical Council may also appoint such other officers and servants as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act.
5. The Registrar or any other officer or servant appointed under this section shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section 2(28) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

- **The last date to receive application of eligible and interested candidates is Dt 28th Feb 2025** before at **3pm**
- **Interview date in physical manner Dt:14/03/2025 at 10-30 am** in Karnataka Medical Council office, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru-560052
- **Date of selection: 29/03/2025**
- **Number of posts of Registrar and Deputy Registrar called for - One (1) Post Each.**

The application on plain paper with bio data and supportive credentials to be sent to **-Registrar, Karnataka Medical Council, No, 16/6, 2nd Floor, Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru-560052** by post or **Email:kmcenq@gmail.com Tel:080-2220 0888.**

Note:-
A.Eligibility -
1. M.B.B.S. degree Registered with Karnataka Medical Council.
2. Experience in Administrative post-Minimum 5 years
3. Upper age for eligibility 67 years as on 01/04/2025

B. (Working hours)
10-am to 5-pm on all working days, including all Saturdays.

C. Remuneration (As per as existing)
For the post of **Registrar Rs.86,000/-** per month
For the post of **Deputy Registrar Rs.81,000/-** per month

D. (Job requirement)
(As per part 3 section 22 to 38 of Karnataka Medical registration rules 1963)
1. Assisting the Council in Registration and Renewal of Modern Medicine Doctors and Maintaining Register.
2. Assisting and regulating CME Programmes.
3. Assisting in Enquiry proceedings, issue of notices and receiving complaints.
4. Maintenance of accounts, preparation of statement of income and expenditure, preparation of annual accounts, preparation of annual budget and maintaining bank accounts.
5. Issuing all notices, receival and issue of all communication with safe custody of all documents and to be present at the meetings of the council (to keep minutes of the proceedings of such meeting)
6. Any other job required as per the KMR Act and Council decisions.

Also see in website : www.karnataka medicalcouncil.com

Sd/-
(Dr.Shamrao.B.Patil)
Registrar
Karnataka Medical Council

Dated: 08.02.2025

Bus catches fire, 20 pax escape unhurt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A PRIVATE tourist bus, which was running on the Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway, caught fire and was gutted completely near Hosa Budhanuru village in Mandya around 2 am on Sunday.

The police said the bus, belonging to Ashoka Travel Agency, was ferrying around 20 passengers from Bengaluru to Kannur in Kerala when the incident took place. As a tyre of the speeding bus burst, the vehicle hit the road divider. The alert driver immediately brought the bus to a halt. As he noticed some smoke in the vehicle, he immediately asked the passengers to deboard with their belongings.

Within minutes of the passengers getting down, the fire engulfed the entire vehicle and was gutted. Local residents, who received information, rushed to the spot and alerted the police and fire service department. Though fire tenders rushed immediately, the bus was completely gutted by the time they reached the spot. The police arranged another bus to help the passengers reach their destination.

A month on, broken drains along Queens Rd keep commuters on edge

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

BROKEN drainage covers along Queens Road, from Cubbon Park Metro Station to MG Road Circle (near Chinnaswamy Stadium Road), have been a safety hazard for over a month, endangering pedestrians and motorists. Despite the high volume of daily commuters on this stretch, authorities are yet to take action.

Of the 30 drainage covers along the road, four are completely broken, and three are partially damaged, posing a significant threat to vehicle users. Only one barricade has been placed near a broken cover at the Chinnaswamy Stadium Bus Stop, but it offers limited protection.

Speaking to TNIE, Thalan Thammaiah, daily commuter who works at an IT firm, expressed his concern. "I have been observing this issue for weeks. At night, it's especially dangerous. Bikers rushing home may not spot the broken covers, which could cause serious accidents," he said, adding that pedestrians are also at risk. "With Chinnaswamy Stadium and Cubbon Park nearby, many pedestrians use this

stretch, and those attempting to cross the road especially senior citizens could suffer injuries if they step on a damaged drainage cover," he added.

Another commuter, Nithish CE, criticised the lack of precautionary measures by the authorities. "There are four broken covers, yet only one has a barricade, which may have been placed by the public. Authorities will act only after someone falls and gets injured, until then they will keep their eyes closed." he said.

Besides, BengaluruPost shared on X, a picture of a broken drainage cover near Ulsoor Road Junction with the caption, "Worn-out drain gratings at Ulsoor Road Junction pose a serious risk to road users, especially in the dark. Despite residents raising complaints, no action has been taken by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Can the Integrated Control Command Centre step in before an accident happens?"

TNIE attempted to contact BBMP officials for a response, but they were unavailable for comment.

Biker falls into open drain, dies

Bengaluru: A 65-year-old man died after he lost control over his two-wheeler and fell into an open drain near Poojanahalli Gate on BB Road in Devanahalli traffic police station limits on Saturday night. The deceased Veerabhadra is a resident of Guddadahalli in Hebbal. He worked as a production manager at a garment factory on Tumakuru Road. Police sources said the deceased was returning home to Hebbal at 11 pm after visiting his mother's house in Rayasandra. Halfway through, he lost control of his bike, skid, and fell into an open drainage near Poojanahalli. He sustained severe head injuries and died on the spot.

Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8-(1)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **IIFL Home Finance Limited** (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IIFL HFL** for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. "The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, If the borrower clears the dues of the **"IIFL HFL"** together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by **"IIFL HFL"** and no further step shall be taken by **"IIFL HFL"** for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower (s) /Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Total Outstanding Dues(Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Posses -sion
Mr. Hanumappa Yamunappa Nerannavar K H Enterprises Mrs.Suvarna H Mrs. Hanumappa Suvarna H K Fashion Designs **(Prospect No 866625 , 867840 , IL10264138 & IL10264504)**	**Property 1:-** All that piece and parcel of Property Bearing : Eastern side of Southern Portion of Site No.133, Bearing Khatha No. 122 , 7th Cross Road , Land Area Ad Measuring 525 Sq. Ft., Situated Dasarahalli Nagar Sabe , Bairaveshwaranagar, Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore, 560079, Karnataka, India. Bounded By : North : Property of K. Chowdappa in Site No.133, South : Property of House No. 134, East : Road, West : Property of K. Chowdappa in Site No. 133. **Property 2:-** All that piece and parcel of Property Bearing : Bearing Site No. 133 , Northern Portion of Bearing Khata No. 122 , Area Ad Measuring 750 Sq. Ft., Situated at Dasarahalli Nagar Sabe Laggere Gram , Baireshwari Nagar , 7th Cross , Bangalore. 560079, Karnataka, India. Bounded By :North : Property of Sri. Umesh no. 132, South : Property of Chowdappa and Gangamma in Site No. 133, West : Property No. 141, East: Road.	**866625 is Rs.11,89,167/-** (Rupees Eleven Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand One Hundred Sixty Seven Only) **& 867840 is Rs.21,89,554/-** (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Four Only) **& IL10264138 is Rs.9,52,426/-** (Rupees Nine Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Six Only) **& IL10264504 is Rs.5,44,670/-** (Rupees Five Lakh Forty Four Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Only)	08-June-2023	05-Feb-2025

For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at **Branch Office:** 'SOMA MERIT', No.9, Ground Floor, Venkataswamy Naidu Street, Taskar Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore 560051 or Corporate Office: Plot No.98, Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place: Bangalore , Date:10-02-2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.**

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GIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

गृहे सौख्यम् विराजते

Bangalore Branch Office: at Leo Shopping Complex, 6th Floor, No.44&45, Residency Road Cross, Bangalore-560025.
Email Id: bangalore@gichfindia.com, Phone No.080-25580038// bengaluru_hub@gichf.com, Phone No.080-25580039.
Electronic City Branch Office: No.96/1, Gobind Tower, 2nd Floor, Hosure Main Road, Singasandra, Bangalore-560068.
Email ID: electronic.city@gichfindia.com // Phone No.080-41453621.
Yelahanka Branch Office: No.792, 2nd Floor, MIG II Stage, Mother Dairy Road, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore-560064.
Email ID: yelahanka@gichfindia.com // Phone No.080-49740475.
Regd. Office: National Insurance Bldg., 6th Floor, 14, Jamshedji TATA Road, Churchgate, Mumbai-400 020. E-Mail:corporate@gichf.com // Tel:022-43041900.

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SUB-RULE (1) OF RULE 8 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES,2002

WHEREAS the undersigned being the authorized officer of **GICHFL**, pursuant to the demand notice issued on its respective dates as given below, under section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002 calling upon you/Borrowers, the under named, to pay outstanding dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the respective notices. You all have failed to pay the said outstanding dues within stipulated time, hence **GICHFL** is in exercise and having right as conferred under the provisions of sub section (4) of section 13 of SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with rules there under, taken **SYMBOLIC POSSESSION** of the Secured Assets as mentioned herein below.

Sr. No.	File No /Branch/ Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property Mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice /Outstanding amount as per Notice	Date Of Symbolic Possession
1	KA0590600000524 / Yelahanka / Mr. Narayan Raghavendra S/o Narayan Swami Mrs. M Radhamma D/o Mayanna R	The property bearing Kaneshumari Katha No.7/1 Property No.4/1 situated at Konappana Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Electronics City, Bangalore-560100.BST Bangalore measuring E-W-23 feet & N-S-16 feet in all measuring 368 sq. Feet and bounded on the:-East By : Dodda Thippe Jaga and Property belongs to Rama Reddy, West By : Road, North By : Late Sheenappa's House, South by : House of Narayanaswamy.	19.11.2024 & Rs.11,45,243/-	04.02.2025
2	KA0590600000689 / Yelahanka / Mr.Srikanth Raj Maheshraj URS S/o Kolagala Nanjaraj Srikanth URS	Site No.407, 4th FLOOR, SY NO-22/1, PNO.17,18,26,27, Paramount-a Apmts, Anekal Taluk, Attibele Hobli, Kammasandra Attibele, Electronics City, Bangalore-560100. UDS 198 Sq.ft., Super Built Area 992 Sq.Ft., and bounded on the: East by: Open to Sky; West by : Flat No. 406; North by : Open to Sky; South by : Open to Sky;	19.11.2024 & Rs.37,57,394/-	04.02.2025
3	KA0670600000544 / Electronic City / Mr.D.Gajendra Babu S/o Dirasanam Ramamoorthy Mrs. D Jyothirmayi W/o Gajendra Babu	The Property bearing Site No.15 Katha No.288/B Property No, 64, situated at 4th Cross, Right side of Rajarajeswari Temple Road, (Sri Venkateswara Tent Road) Devasandra KR Puram Bangalore measuring E- W-25 feet and N-S-20 feet in all measuring 500 sq. feet and consists of RCC Roofed house measuring 450 Sq.Feet., and bounded on the:- East By : Site No.16, West By : Road, North By: Road, South by : Site No.14.	19.11.2024 & Rs.16,05,924/-	08.02.2025

FURTHER, to this notice, the Borrowers are hereby called upon to hand over vacant and peaceful possession of the respective properties to **GICHFL** within **15 days** from the date of this notice, else the undersigned shall be constrained to proceed to take PHYSICAL POSSESSION of the above properties forcibly and / or shall proceed to sale the above said properties after a period of 30 days from the date hereby by adopting method/s provided under SARFAESI Act 2002 and rules thereto.

The BORROWERS and the PUBLIC IN GENERAL is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above referred Properties/Secured Assets or any part thereof and any dealing with the Properties/Secured Assets will be subject of GICHFL for the amount mentioned hereinabove against Properties/Secured Assets which is payable with the further interest thereon until payment in full.

Date : 10.02.2025 **For GIC Housing Finance Ltd.**
Place : Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer**

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

hudco

(A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE, A NAVARATNA CPSE)
HUDCO Regional Office, Bengaluru, Unit 703-704, 7th floor, North Block, Front Wing,
Manipal Centre, No. 47, Dickenson Road, Bengaluru-560042. Tel. No. 080-25587009, 25582602, 25587010

NOTICE OF SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION

Notice is hereby given to the public in general that Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) proposes to sell 16 Nos of flats owned by HUDCO in Bengaluru through e-auction. Details of the properties are given below:

Property Address	Built-up Area (Sq. Ft)	Reserve Price (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)	Mode of EMD payment:	Date / Time of e-Auction:
Flat No. MF 10/9. J-Block, 2nd Floor, BDA Flat, Nandini layout. Bengaluru-560096	978	52,42,000	5,24,200	**The bidders are required to deposit Earnest Money through enivida portal of Railtel (https:// hudcoauction. enivida.com) The last date of receipt of EMD is: 17:00 Hrs. on 01.03.2025**	**Date: 04.03.2025 Time : 11:00 hours to 13:00 hours with auto time extension of 10 minutes each till the sale is completed.**
Flat No. MF 10/10, J-Block, 2nd Floor, BDA Flat, Nandini layout, Bengaluru-560096	978	52,4,2000	5,24,200		
Flat No. MF 10/11, J-Block, 2nd Floor, BDA Flat, Nandini layout, Bengaluru-560096	978	52,42,000	5,24,200		
Flat No. MF 10/12, J-Block, 2nd Floor, BDA Flat, Nandini layout, Bengaluru-560096	978	52,42,000	5,24,200		
Flat No.202, 2nd Floor. Ghattaprabha Block, A4, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560047	1440.57	99,90,000	9,99,000		
Flat No.203, 2nd Floor. Ghattaprabha Block, A4, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560047	1440.57	99,90,000	9,99,000		
Flat No.302, 3rd Floor. Ghattaprabha Block, A4, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560047	1605.42	1,11,34,000	11,13,400		
Flat No.303, 3rd Floor. Ghattaprabha Block, A4,National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560047	1605.42	1,11,34,000	11,13,400		
Flat No.402, 4th Floor. Ghattaprabha Block, A4, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560047	1549.23	1,07,40,000	10,74,000		
Flat No.403, 4th Floor. Ghattaprabha Block, A4, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560047	1549.23	1,07,40,000	10,74,000		
Flat No.414, 4th Floor. Ghattaprabha Block, A4, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560047	1600.45	1,10,99,000	11,09,900		
Flat No.415, 4th Floor. Ghattaprabha Block, A4, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560047	1600.45	1,10,99,000	11,09,900		
Flat No.501, 5th Floor. Ghattaprabha Block, A4, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560047	1549.23	1,07,44,000	10,74,400		
Flat No.502, 5th Floor. Ghattaprabha Block, A4,National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560047	1549.23	1,07,44,000	10,74,400		
Flat No.601, 6th Floor. Ghattaprabha Block, A4,National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560047	1430.35	99,19,000	9,91,900		
Flat No.602,6th Floor. Ghattaprabha Block, A4,National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560047	1430.35	99,19,000	9,91,900		

For detailed Terms & Conditions, Please see HUDCO **website:www.hudco.org.in**

Sd/- Authorized Officer

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE -(DRT-2)

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore-560 002

O. A. No.407/2024

Between : Canara Bank, Trinity Circle Branch ...Applicant
Vs
Muruganandam K., ...Defendant
To

Muruganandam K., Aged about 51 Years , S/o. Karuppa Swamy, No. 48, Ground Floor, Veerasagara- Attur Post, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064. Mobile No. 9036738404.

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 TO DEFENDANT

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act of 1993, against you for the recovery of total sum of **Rs.47,04,880.85 ps** (Rupees Forty Seven Lakhs Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty and Paise Eighty Five Only) together with the current and future interest, costs and other reliefs.

The above mentioned defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or through authorized agents in support of their defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **03.04.2025 at 10.30 A. M.** as to why relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **20.11.2024.**

By the Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 , Bangalore

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE

Original Application No.209/2024

STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, J.C. Road, Bangalore. **...Applicant**
Versus
Sri Harish D., ...Defendant

SUMMONS /NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To,

Sri Harish D., S/o. Sri Devappa, R/at No. 80/1, 13th Cross, 6th Main, Channappa Reddy Layout, Virat Nagar, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debt and Bankruptcy Act 1993, against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.46,43,346/-** (Rupees Forty Six Lakhs Forty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Six Only) mentioned therein together with current and future interest and other reliefs. The above defendant is therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense within 30 days from the date of publication or on **20.03.2025 at 10.30 am** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **16.01.2025.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Bangalore
Advocate for Applicant Bank
Mrs. Malini Vinay

QuoteExpress
PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES
ROBERT H SCHULLER

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client intends to purchase the property which is morefully described in the Schedule hereto below free from all encumbrances from **Mrs. Meena Bai w/o late S. Vimal Raj** and **Mr.Kishan Surana s/o late S. Vimal Raj** both are residing at No.45, CMH Road, Indiranagara, Bangalore-560038. Any person or persons, having any claim, interest or right on the property described in the Schedule written hereunder or any part thereof by way of any Claim, litigation(s) pending before any court or tribunal or governmental or statutory authority or by way of inheritance, sale, exchange, mortgage, lien, pledge, gift, trust, bequeath, possession, lease, charge, easement, grant, tenancy or encumbrance howsoever is hereby required to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/its claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim, and the claims, if any, of such person (s) shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

THE SCHEDULE REFERRED TO ABOVE

All that piece and parcel of agriculture lands bearing survey numbers mentioned below in all measuring **01 Acre 17.08 Guntas,** situated at **Upparahalli Villages, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.**

Sl. No.	Survey Nos.	Extent		Boundaries			
		Acre	Guntas	East by	West by	North by	South by
1.	14	0	13	Sulibele Road	Sy No.16/2	Sy No.15	Sy No.21 & 13
2.	15	0	22	Sulibele Road	Sy No.44	Road and Madduramma and Chowdesh-waramma temple's land	Sy No.14
3.	16/2	0	11	Sy No.14	Sy No.17	Sy No.16/1B &16/1A	Sy No.20 & 21
4.	17/2	0	06	Sy No.16/2	Sy No.43/3 & 18/1	Sy No.17/1	Sy No.20/1
5.	18/1	0	05.08	Sy No. 17/2	Sy No.40/4 & 43/2	Sy No.43/3	Sy No.18/2 & 18/3

DHIRENDRA N. KATTI,
KKC & Co., Advocates,
No. 4, 14th Cross, Vyalikaval, Bangalore-560003.
Phone : 9845397583, E-mail: kattidhirendra@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date : 10-02-2025

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A Scheduled Commercial Bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 05.02.2025	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last date TIME & Place for submission of Bid
1	45359630001767	1) Mr. Mahalinga K M, 2) Mr. Mallegowda, 3) Mrs. Kamalamma	06.08.2024	15.12.2024	Rs.6,54,723.62 (Rupees Six Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Three and Sixty Two Paisa Only)	18.02.2025 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.29,93,000/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Only)	Rs.2,99,300/- (Rupees Two Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Three Hundred Only)	28.02.2025 @ 02:00 PM	27.02.2025, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071

Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel for Property Khaneshumari No.197/170, measuring East to West 11.5823 Meter and North to South 15.2399 Meters, Situated at Kallegowdanadoddi Village, Mullahalli Grama Panchayath, Uyyamballi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** House belongs to Kempamma, **West by:** Site belongs to Nanjegowda, **North by:** Own Property & **South by:** Government Road.

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. M Srinivasulru Contact Number: 8142000809. Email id: info@bankauctions.in/ srinivas@bankauctions.in.**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob. No.6362951653), Mr. Umesh (Mob. No.8050149617) & Mrs. Syeda (Mob. No.7400445147).** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 10.02.2025, Place: Ramanagara **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Sri. E. Prapulla Chandra has misplaced/lost the original GPA executed by **1) Sri. M. Shamanna, 2) Sri. M. Krishnappa and 3) Sri.M.Ramancharappa** in favor of **Sri. S.G. Shamanna,** S/o Late Ganganna to sale the Property bearing khatha No. 153/2-4, House List no.12, situated at Chunchagatta village, Uttarahalli hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring **East to West 30 feet** and **North to South 42 feet** through Sale Deed dated 29.08.1992 in favour of My Client Sri. E. Prapulla Chandra .

Any person finding the same may contact the undersigned ***within 7 days*** from this day, failing which my client will proceed further.

Sd/-
Sharanya P A, Advocate
417, 12th Main Road, 75th Cross,
6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010
Ph-8792232913 / 7483628330

PUBLIC NOTICE

Surrender of SEBI Investment Advisor Registration by AQRT Wealth Management Private Limited

We, the Directors on behalf of the Company AQRT Wealth Management Private Limited are going to surrender our SEBI Registration Certificate as an Investment Advisor with registration number INA000 018513 and BSE IA Enlistment No. 2085. In case of any grievances, please lodge it at www.scores.gov.in

Poornima Shankar Shetty
Director

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 07.02.2025

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE

Original Application No.264/2024

STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, J.C. Road, Bangalore. **...Applicant**
Versus
Mr. Mohammed Anwar & Anr. ...Defendant

SUMMONS /NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To, 1. Mr. Mohammed Anwar, Proprietor of M/s. Indoflex Rubber, R/at :No. 47, Banaswadi Road, Opp Mukund Theater, Maruthi Seva Nagar, Bangalore - 560 033. **Aso at :** No. 34/8, Tooba Layout, Vidyasagar, Thanisandra Main Road, Dr. Shivaram Karanth Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560 077

2. Mrs. Shahid Begam, W/o. Mr. Mohammed Anwer, Both are 1 & 2 R/at: No.9, G .C. Colony, Queens Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debt and Bankruptcy Act ,1993, against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.46,98,585/-** (Rupees Forty Six Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Five Only) mentioned therein together with current and future interest and other reliefs. The above defendant is therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense within 30 days from the date of publication or on **20.03.2025 at 10.30 am** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **29.01.2025.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Bangalore
Advocate for Applicant Bank
Mrs. Malini Vinay

PUBLIC NOTICE LOST OF DOCUMENTS

Public are hereby notified that my client **M/s Maiyas Beverages And Foods Pvt Ltd.,** situated at No.53, (old No.430), 7th 'B' Main road, 30th cross, 4th block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560 011, Represented by its Director **Nava Mohan Kumar S**, the owner of below mentioned property has lost the original letter of bidding confirmation letter cum allotment letter issued by the then CITB now BOA in the auction held **on 19.01.1959,** while getting it Xeroxed & handing over the same to an Advocate for getting a legal opinion. Subsequently a complaint is also lodged with the police vide **Lost Report No. 1467036/2025.** If any person/s finds the same is hereby requested to return the same to the below mentioned Advocate or to the nearest police station within **7 days** from the date of the publication of this notice. If no information is received within the aforesaid period, then it will be presumed that nobody is in possession of the same.

H.N.Rajesh,
Advocate,
No.107, 1st Floor, Gandhibazaar,
Bangalore-04. Ph. No. 94480 09407
Date: 10-02-2025 Bangalore

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CEE/TZH/EE(C)/37/2024-25/19723-24 Date: 06.02.2025

Brief Tender Notification (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites Bids on KPPP mode for the following Works **on Partial/Total Turnkey Basis.**

(1) Tender Indent No.: KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT1176/Call-2. Construction of RCC retaining wall, drains and security fencing (for the damaged portion) at 66/11kV S/s **Basavagatta** in Hassan Taluk, Hassan District.

(2) Tender Indent No.: KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT1194/Call-2. Restoration of Damaged compound wall, RCC storm water drain and other allied works at **Major works store** premises Hassan **(Reserved for SC)**

(3) Tender Indent No.: KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT1177/Call-2. Construction of security compound, Boundary compound wall and chain link fencing at 66/11kV sub-station at **Udayapura** in C.R. Patna Taluk, Hassan District.

(4) Tender Indent No.: KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT1195/Call-2. Repairs **3 blocks (CL-67,68,69) of 1 AEE quarters at KPTCL Colony** Hassan.

(5) Tender Indent No.: KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT1284/Call-2. Construction of Boundary compound wall, Road and drain works at 110/11kv S/s premises **Banavara** in Arasikere Taluk, Hassan District.

(6) Tender Indent No.: KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT1285/Call-3. Construction of Security compound wall and other allied works at **KPTCL Colony Arasikere** in Arasikere Taluk, Hassan District **(Call-3)**

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karanataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karanataka.gov.in on or after 10.02.2025 at 15:00hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of bids is **24.02.2025 at 15:00hrs.** Any extension of due date for bid submission will be intimated in the KPP portal. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy., Transmission (Operation) Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan-573 201. Tel.: 08172-231051.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	45350430000532	1) Mr. Kamakumar, 2) Mrs. Jayalakshmi	04-12-2024 Rs.4,60,211.31 (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty Thousand Two Hundred Eleven and Thirty One Paisa Only) due as on 02-12-2024	Date: 07-02-2025 Time: 01:05 PM Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of Property No. 152900102301200468/340/243, measuring East to West 9.144 Meters and North to South 12.192 Meters, situated at Moleddodi Village, Nilasandra Grama Panchayath, Channapattana Block, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Site belongs to Andanaiah, **West by:** Site belongs to Chikkolamma, **North by:** House belongs to Sannamma, **South by:** Government Road.			
2	30198640002529 30198640002532 30199660000315 30199660000328 & 30199660003324	1) M/s. S K Enterprises, Prop. **Mr. P Kodanda Ramu/ Mr. Puttaswamy Gowda Kodandaramu,** 2) M/s. Krushi Upakarana, Prop. **Mrs. M Savithri,** 3) Mr. P Kodanda Ramu/ Mr. Puttaswamy Gowda Kodandaramu, Prop. M/s. S K Enterprises, Also at: M/s. S K Enterprises, 4) Mrs. M Savithri, Prop. M/s. Krushi Upakarana, Also at: M/s. Krushi Upakarana, 5) Mr. Hruday K	05-12-2024 Rs.58,03,884.69 (Rupees Fifty Eighty Lakh Three Thousand Eighty Hundred Eighty Four and Sixty Nine Paisa Only) due as on 02-12-2024	Date: 07-02-2025 Time: 02:45 PM Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.406/D, Old Khatha No.07, presently now under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, having Khatha No. 500/4452/2419/406/D, a layout formed by Jagajyothi Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., situated at Nagadevanahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: 30 Ft and North to South: 32 Ft in total 960 Sq.ft. and **Bounded as follows: East by:** Site No.406/E, **West by:** Site No.406/C, **North by:** Private Property, **South by:** 40 Feet Road. Measuring East to West: 30 Feet and North to South: 32 Ft, in Total 960 Sq.ft.			

Whereas the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore Rural & Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer,**
Date: 10.02.2025 **For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

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A 45-year-old man was arrested under Pocso act for allegedly raping his stepdaughter in Thiruvananthapuram. Vellarada police arrested the accused on Sunday. The accused has been sexually abusing the ten-year-old child for two years

Union govt diverted PM-Shri funds to other states: Stalin

TN Chief Minister alleges move is political revenge for opposing 3-language policy, National Education Policy 2020

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ CHENNAI

CHIEF Minister MK Stalin on Sunday lashed out at the Union government, accusing it of diverting Rs 2,152 crore meant for Tamil Nadu under the Samagra Shiksha scheme to states like Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. He alleged that the move was political revenge against the state for opposing the three-language policy and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

In a post on X, Stalin said the BJP-led government's unjust attitude towards TN knows no bounds. "For rejecting the imposition of #NEP2020 and the three-language policy, they resorted to open blackmail, snatching away Rs 2,152 crore meant for Tamil Nadu's students and now they have handed it over to other states. This is nothing short of coercion, punishing our students for standing up for their rights," he said. He further stated that no administration in India's history had been so ruthless as to strangle access to education as a political revenge against a state.

"The BJP has once again proven itself to be the face of injustice and hatred towards Tamil Nadu and its people," he said, using the hashtag #BJPCheatsTN. School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi also took to social media to condemn the BJP-led Union government, calling it 'anti-Tamil' and 'fascist'. He said that both teachers and students in the state would not forgive the Centre for its actions and reiterated that the state's fight to bring education back to the State List would continue.

Earlier, CM MK Stalin had written a letter to PM Modi that the bone of contention in signing the MoU for PM Shri schools is related to the three-language formula put forth in clause 4.12 of the NEP 2020.

Meanwhile, senior officials in the school education department said they had not received any official communication regarding the alleged diversion of funds and suggested that the finance department might have been informed instead.

Meanwhile, BJP state president K Annamalai dismissed Stalin's claims, accusing him of spreading lies. He stated that as per the latest fund releases under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, 35 out of 36 States and Union Territories were yet to receive their allocated funds for 2024-25.

Andhra industrialist stabbed over 70 times by grandson, dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

FORMER chairman and managing director of Veljan Hydrair Limited Velamati Chandrasekhara Janardhan Rao (86) was allegedly stabbed to death by his grandson Killaru Kirti Teja on Thursday night at Begumpet in the city. Kirti Teja reportedly stabbed his maternal grandfather more than 70 times over distribution of property.

A source in the police department said that the industrialist's body bore more than 70 injury marks. However, when *TNIE* contacted, Panjagutta station house officer (SHO) Bandari Shobhan said, "We cannot confirm anything until we receive a postmortem examination report." According to the police, Janardhan Rao had three daughters and one son. The accused is the son of one of the daughters.

After killing his grandfather Kirti Teja changed his clothes and threw away the knife and his old clothes somewhere. "The murder appeared a preplanned one as the accused came armed with a knife before meeting Janardhan Rao," a source in the police department told *TNIE*.

During questioning after his arrest, Kirti Teja maintained stoic silence regarding the whereabouts of the knife and clothes. He came back from the US a few years ago.

Panjagutta ACP Mohan Rao said that the accused's mother, Sarojini Devi, is undergoing treatment for the knife injuries she suffered while trying to stop her son from stabbing her father.

"As per our preliminary inquiry, Kirti Teja killed Janardhan Rao. Therefore, we have arrested him," the official said. The body fluids have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory for analysis.

According to the police complaint lodged by Velamati Gangadhar Srinivas, son of Janardhan Rao, his second sister Sarojini Devi and her son Kirti Teja had come to his grandfather's residence in the evening hours and he had an argument with his grandfather regarding property distribution. During the argument Kirti Teja took a knife and stabbed his grandfather. While stabbing, Kirti Teja said, "You did not distribute the properties in the right manner, nobody in the company is giving respect to me, give me my money (sic)," the complaint reads.

Veljan company manufactures pneumatic and hydraulic products, components and systems.

Pawan Kalyan directs probe into fraud allegations against Tirupati leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Tirupati

JANA Sena Party (JSP) President and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has directed the party's Conflict Committee to investigate the allegations made against the Tirupati constituency in-charge, **Kiran Royal**. The directive follows the release of a video on social media platform X by YSRCP, in which a woman from Tirupati, identified as Lakshmi, accused Kiran of fraud, extortion, and claimed that he took over ₹1.20 crore and 25 sovereigns (200 grams) of gold from her under false promises, leaving her in severe financial distress. In the now-viral video, she revealed that she had been driven to the brink of suicide due to his actions.

In the video, Lakshmi said: "I took loans and gave ₹1.20 crore (to Kiran Royal). When I asked for my money back, I was threatened that my children would be harmed. He made me record videos under duress. He only gave me bonds and cheques worth ₹30 lakh. I have all the proof. My children are asking me questions, and I have no answers. I cannot live anymore. If I die, I only hope that my children will get back the money."

Until further notice, Kiran has been instructed to refrain from participating in party activities. Pawan also urged party members, including Jana Sainiks, Veera Mahilas, and leaders, to focus on public welfare and avoid personal disputes. He emphasised that no one is above the law and that the legal process will take its course.

The YSRCP released Lakshmi's video shortly after Kiran Royal published a satirical poster criticising party president and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy over his "Jagananna 2.0" remark.

ALL SMILES

Children take part in a procession to mark the ongoing Samathakumbh Utsavalu of the 108 temples in Hyderabad on Sunday | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGANY

EXPRESS READ

Stalin grants Rs 3L aid to woman pushed off train

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Chief Minister M K Stalin on Sunday announced ₹3 lakh ex-gratia to the woman who was pushed out of a moving train by a man for resisting rape, in Vellore recently. The state government also announced that it would bear the entire cost of her medical treatment. The four-month pregnant woman had lost her unborn child in the impact of the attack. The Chief Minister said that the accused, K Hemaraj (30) from Vellore, was immediately arrested and is behind bars.

'16 Indians missing from Russian armed forces'

MADURAI: Union Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, in response to a batch of questions from MPs Dayanidhi Maran and Su Venkatesan about Indians trapped in the frontline of Russia-Ukraine war, said there are 18 Indian nationals in the Russian armed forces. Of these, 16 have been reported missing by the Russian side. The Indian government is in regular contact with the Russian authorities to locate the missing individuals and ensure their safety, well being and repatriation, he added.

Man held for sexually harassing three minors

DINDIGUL: A 55-year-old man was arrested under the Pocso Act on Sunday morning, for sexually harassing three minor girls in Nilakottai. Police said Ramu (55) of Batlagundu is a dailwager and part timed as a priest in a local temple. Ramu was allegedly sexually harassing a 7-year-old girl in the locality for a while, and harassed two other girls (aged under 9). Frustrated by Ramu's advances, one of the girls confided with her parents. A case was registered under Pocso Act the same night.

14 Indian fishers held by SL Navy for defying IMBL

RAMANATHAPURAM: boats with 14 fishermen from Rameswaram and Thangachimadam were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy for alleged violation of the IMBL early on Sunday. They were taken to Sri Lanka for further legal proceedings. According to the fisheries department, 470 boats from Rameswaram ventured into the sea on Saturday. Two boats with 14 fishermen were arrested and taken to Iranativu Island and were handed over to the Assistant Directorate of Fisheries, Kilinochchi, for legal proceedings.

IAF officer cremated with full military honours in S'mogga

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

THE last rites of the Indian Air Force junior warrant officer Manjunath G S, who died after his parachute failed to deploy, was performed with full military honours at his village Sankuru in Hosanagara taluk on Sunday.

His mortal remains arrived in Shivamogga city in the morning. MP B Y Raghavendra and MLA S N Channabasappa paid their last respects before it was taken to Hosanagara. His body arrived in Hosanagara at 11.30 am in a military vehicle. Thousands of people had gathered near Kodachadri College. A massive procession accompanied the open military vehicle carrying Manjunath's remains to his native village. Mourners, including schoolchildren, lined the streets, showering flowers in tribute to the fallen soldier.

G S Manjunath

The funeral procession of IAF junior warrant officer Manjunath G S in Hosanagara

MLA Beluru Gopalakrishna, tahsildar Rashmi Halesh, and Congress leader Kalagodu Ratnakar paid their respects on behalf of the government. His body was placed at his residence for final viewing. The body was handed over to the family after full military honours. His mortal remains were cremated at his family land at his village as per Ediga community tradition. A pall of gloom descended on the village.

After a century, freedom fighter Gam Gantam Dora's descendants find a home worthy of his legacy

USHA PERI @ Visakhapatnam

FOR generations, the descendants of Gam Gantam Dora, one of the unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle, have lived in thatched houses in the remote tribal regions of Alluri Sitarama Raju district. Despite his sacrifices during the Rampa Rebellion alongside Alluri Sitarama Raju, his family has remained in hardship and often overlooked. But now, in a historic move, 11 descendants of Gam Gantam Dora will be moving into newly-built apartments in Lanka Veedhi village in Battapanuka in Koyyuru mandal, marking the first-ever residential flats constructed in the tribal Agency area.

The initiative, undertaken by NCC Limited, ensures that the families of a freedom fighter, who once fought for the dignity of his people, will now receive the dignity of a proper home. These flats, comprising two residential blocks (G+2), provide each family with a 700-square-ft unit featuring two bedrooms, a hall, a kitchen, and attached bathrooms. The homes have been donated free of cost to the descendants of the Manyam hero, ensuring they no longer have to struggle for a roof over their heads. Built with ₹3.5 crore, the flats will be handed over to the descendants on February 17.

Residential units constructed for the tribal leader's family, The thatched houses at Lanka Veedhi in Alluri Sitarama Raju district | G SATYANARAYANA

Gantam Dora, a prominent tribal leader from Koyyuru, was once a village headman (Munasabu) under the British rule. His strong commitment to tribal welfare put him at odds with colonial authorities, leading to his dismissal and the confiscation of his home in Lanka Veedhi village. Undeterred, he joined the Rampa Rebellion (1922-1924) alongside Alluri Sitarama Raju and Mallu Dora, actively participating in attacks on Chintapalle, KD Peta, and Rajavommangi police stations. He played a key role in strategic operations against British forces and continued his resistance even after Raju's death. His fight came to an end in June 1924, when he was killed at Valasampeta village in Singadhara.

In 2022, Gantam Dora's grandson Bodi Dora was felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the centenary celebrations of Alluri Sitarama Raju in Bhimavaram. Gantam Dora's son, Jogudora, has five sons - Buchi Dora, Lachim Dora, Bodi Dora, Tellanna Dora, and Somanna Dora. The 11 members are from different parts of Lanka Veedhi, Nadimpalem, and nearby villages.

Tiny leaf slugs keeping marine ecosystem healthy: Researchers

The marine slugs discovered in Karwar | SHANAWAZ KADAPA

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S @ Karwar

MARINE life in and around Karwar is healthy and rich with aquatic life, as per researchers at Department of Marine Biology, Karnataka University Dharwad (KUD). Surprisingly, this is due to tiny creatures like leaf slugs Majali and estuary of Kali, which are indicators of marine ecological health.

A tiny microscopic and macro organism found near Karwar has thrilled the marine biologists. The leaf slugs known as Elysia bantamweights have been identified for the first time in the state's west coast-regulate algal populations by feeding on them and maintaining ecological balance.

The slugs were found by Shanawaz Rafique, a researcher on marine life. "It harnesses sunlight for energy, contributing to nutrient cycling. It serves as prey for marine predators, supporting food webs. Its role in both herbivory and energy transfer is crucial for ecosystem stability," he told *TNIE*. Shanawaz managed to photograph a few of these slugs and said that there are several such species in the mangroves.

This small, vibrant sea slug, decorated with intricate patterns of white and yellow, resembles delicate brushstrokes on the canvas of the ocean. They are found in the warm, shallow waters of coral reefs. They thrive in areas where the sunlight enters through the water, helping it blend seamlessly with the seaweed and algae.

This sea slug feeds primarily on algae. It scrapes off rocks and corals. It doesn't just munch on any algae, though. "It is known for its selective taste, preferring certain types of algae, particularly those that grow on the reef's surfaces. As it feeds, it absorbs the algae green pigments, which are stored in its body and help it in a remarkable way, like it can photosynthesise. This means it does not eat to survive but to harness the power of the sun, much like the plants," said Shanawaz.

The presence of this slug is considered a sign of a healthy, thriving marine ecosystem. Healthy reefs protect coastlines from erosion, support a diversity of marine life and maintain the balance of the ocean's ecosystem. "Slugs thriving here is a sign that the waters are clean and marine life is healthy and rich," he said.

BACK FROM KUMBH

Bodies of four victims arrive in Belagavi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

THE bodies of four people of Belagavi who lost their lives in an accident while travelling to the Kumbh Mela arrived in Belagavi on Sunday. Heartbroken families gathered in large numbers to receive their loved ones near Bhutaramanahatti village on National Highway-48 on the outskirts of Belagavi.

The bodies were transported from Indore under official supervision and were received by local representatives and their families. A group of 18 people had set out from Belagavi for the Kumbh Mela. However, on February 8, an accident in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, claimed six lives and left 17 others seriously injured.

Among the deceased were four from Belagavi who identified as Sagar Shahapurkar (55); a driver from Basavan Galli; Neeta Badamanji (50) from Kranti Nagar in Benakanahalli Gram Panchayat limits; Sangeeta Maitre from Chhatrapati Shivajinagar; and Jyoti Khandekar from Vadgaon.

Belagavi South MLA Abhay Patil coordinated with Indore district authorities to ensure the safe return of both the injured and the deceased. The bodies were received at Bhutaramanahatti by MLA Patil, Sri Ram Sene Hindustan president, Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti(MES) leader Ramakant Konduskar, and others. Later, the bodies were taken to their respective localities, where Indore's deputy tehsildar and police officials formally handed them over to the families.

Locals carry bodies of the deceased in Belagavi on Sunday | EXPRESS

Revanth urges South to unite against BJP's centralisation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

TELANGANA Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has called for a united front among southern states to protect democratic rights, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP of attempting to control all institutions. He also expressed concern over southern states potentially losing Lok Sabha constituencies in the upcoming delimitation process.

Speaking at a private event in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday, Revanth stated: "PM Modi and the BJP have taken everything under their control, posing a major threat to democracy. It is time for the people of the southern states — Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Puducherry — to unite. Political parties have a limited role in this fight because their leaders may prioritise political gains. If needed, I am ready to take the initiative in this matter."

Emphasising the importance of Opposition unity, the chief minister cited the Haryana and Delhi elections as examples for the need to be united. He expressed concerns about the impact of delimiting constituencies based on population.

EDITORIAL

"There is no violence worse than the violence of the occupier, using the force of an entire nation. So the question about who fired first is an evasion meant to distort the picture

Gideon Levy

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

HUGE VOTE SWING AWAY SHOWS AAP ITS PLACE IN DELHI

A substantial 10 percent vote swing against the AAP knocked it out of power in Delhi as the party shed 40 seats from its 2020 tally of 62 in the 70-member assembly. Arrogance was writ large as AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal refused to forge an alliance with the Congress due to overconfidence on getting a third consecutive mandate by going solo. That fractured opposition unity, though others in the INDIA bloc with negligible presence in Delhi supported the AAP. The ruling party lost at least 14 seats because of a split in the opposition vote share. Another metric makes the comparison even more interesting. While the BJP got 2 percent more votes than the AAP, an equal percentage of votes got added to the Congress kitty than it had in 2020. That the game could have been different had the opposition stayed united is a no-brainer. When the outcome appeared clear, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah exclaimed: "*Aur lado aapas mein*!!! (Go on fighting against each other!!!)"

As for the Congress, it does not seem to have any sense of guilt in gift-wrapping Delhi to the BJP. It feels a powerless AAP would open the space for the grand old party to regain the turf it ceded to Kejriwal when he rode the 2011 anti-corruption campaign wave. A decade later, Kejriwal lost his teflon image and became the face of ill-gotten wealth because of the excise policy scam, which was first reported by this newspaper.

If AAP's goodies fetched it two consecutive terms, the BJP more than matched them with Modi's guarantees this time. Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured that none of the AAP's welfare schemes would be axed if the BJP were to rule Delhi, adding there were more in store. In the process, the party weaned Dalit votes away from the AAP. The BJP's hyper-local campaign that focused on the declining quality of living, bad governance, toxic Yamuna, air pollution, and crumbling infrastructure struck a chord among the poor and the middle class. Income tax cuts in the Union budget were timed just right for the polls. Hindutva did not figure much in the campaign but the Sangam dips by the party brass at the Kumbh sent their own silent message. Modi has now taken the onerous responsibility of cleaning up the Yamuna. Here's wishing him godspeed.

TOUGH TASK AT HAND: SIMPLIFYING TAX LAWS

THE new Income Tax Bill aims to make tax regulations more comprehensible, even for the common taxpayer. The government claims that the bill seeks to simplify the language of tax laws, making them more direct and clear. It also plans to cut the number of laws by half, both in terms of chapters and words. The government hopes the new bill will reduce litigation and streamline tax administration. While the initiative to overhaul tax laws, eliminate redundant rules, and trim excess provisions is commendable, it is no easy task. Tax laws are inherently dynamic—court judgements and interpretations continuously expand the legal frame. More than just simplified language, taxpayers would benefit from a commitment to certainty in provisions and a prospective approach to taxation.

The current Income Tax Act has been in force since 1962 and needed an overhaul. The government has often tried changing the rules through amendments—the Income Tax Act 1961 has been amended over 4,000 times. Even under the earlier governments led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, committees—once under Justice R V Easwar and another time under revenue service officer Arbind Modi—were formed for simplifying the Income Tax Act. Some of the provisions of these committees have already been implemented. Yet, those changes were not enough. This time, the government was not satisfied with cosmetic changes, and wanted to bring about more fundamental changes in the way the rules are written.

Finance ministry bureaucrats claim the language of the income tax laws would become so easy that a common salaried employee can understand his tax liabilities. This way, the government believes, it can put an end to the mounting pile of court cases. North Block bureaucrats have already made it clear the proposed changes will have no rate or structural surprises. It must be mentioned here that the new bill has been drafted in a relatively short span of six months, whereas similar exercises have taken years at other times. The bill will be presented in parliament this week and would go to the standing committee for perusal. Usually, what starts as a simple law gets complex during the consultation process. It remains to be seen how this ambitious project of 'simplifying' the tax rules pans out.

QUICK TAKE

BETTING ON MENTAL HEALTH

AS Americans prepared for the biggest event on their sporting calendar this weekend—the Superbowl clash—policy minders got increasingly worried about the record amounts of bets being placed and the toll such gambling took on the mental health of millions. The American Gaming Association expected this year's bets to total $1.39 billion. What's less noticed is an all-consuming stress gnawing at many with the rising stakes. Online sports betting does not yet have a settled legal status across India, even though lakhs indulge in it. As legislatures and the judiciary assess its legitimacy, we hope they will consider its impact on the mental health of Indians.

Despite the conflicts it's embedded in, the Jewish state often pulls punches above its weight. It's true for technological achievements and intellectual contributions

LESSON FROM ISRAEL: HOW SMALL CAN BE EFFECTIVE

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE

Author and commentator

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

SOURAV ROY

MY ten days in Israel were some of the most absorbing, intense, immersive and transformative. Though I have visited over 50 countries and lived in several, there is no other place like this small but vibrant nation. Why? Because Israelis, regardless of their huge ethnic and ideological diversity, really love their country and own up the responsibility of its well-being as no one else dooes. Not surprising, given how fraught and hard-fought their nation state is. More than being an individual, being part of the nation is the primary identity of citizens.

A paradox, or should I say miracle, of ancient history and modern innovation, of conflict and peace, of desert and verdant agriculture, Israel is utterly unique. It is an almost-zero crime society, with a highly engaged citizenry. It enjoys a high degree of freedom and democracy. Radically opposed views and lively, sometimes loud, discussions are very much a part of its daily routine. None is afraid to speak their mind or criticise their elected leaders. It is, moreover, a "flat" society, with hardly any class distinctions or social hierarchies. Yes, there are rich and poor, but none of the feudal culture, clannishness, caste coteries or sycophancy that we see in India.

Israel is also high on competence, innovation, and hard work, making it a startup nation. From desalination, water conservation and brilliant food technology to high-end research and innovation in cybersecurity, agriculture, and health tech, Israel is committed to excellence in all walks of life. Despite all the odds stacked against them, they have done well; despite all the benefits (cultural, historic, and geographical) on our side, we are still lagging. We are very comfortable with mediocrity and the stultifying law of averages. Every day in Israel reminded me of how lucky we are—and how far behind our potential.

Israel, with US backing, is creating a new Middle East. Can India create a new Indian sub-continent, Indian Ocean ecumene, and more? Such questions, much before President Donald Trump's astonishing declaration that he was planning to take over the Gaza strip, struck several members of the Indian delegation invited to visit Israel recently. The visit was organised by the Israeli-run NGO Sharaka. *Sharaka*, an Arabic word for 'coming together'—that is how we have the Urdu-Hindi *shareek*, meaning 'to join'—is committed to promoting the Abraham Accords.

Presided over by Trump in his earlier term in September 2020, the Abraham Accords succeeded in normalising diplomatic relations between Israel and several Arab nations. Member countries included the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco. Saudi Arabia, too, was expected to follow suit, but the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, changed everything. It also brought to the fore Israeli military might as never before. The small Jewish state, the only one in the world, struck back fiercely. It not only eliminated the top leadership of Hamas and Hezbollah, but considerably weakened arch-enemy Iran and precipitated a regime change in Syria.

On the positive side, there is really no limit to the extent to which the friendship and cooperation between India and Israel can grow. Indeed, to my mind, our collaboration should not be confined to the geo-strategic, economic, or even the technological vertical. The greatest and most beneficial fruits of this fertile partnership will be intellectual, cultural, spiritual, and civilisational. This latter set will, naturally, subsume the former.

India's ties with Israel have already been decoupled with our relations with other Arab and Muslim nations. We can and must—as the Modi administration has demonstrated—cultivate and enjoy excellent links with both. Also, we must decouple India's Israel ties with our sizeable Muslim population of over 200 million.

Actually, this does not really pose a problem. Except for occasional Muslim radicals, I doubt that Indian Muslims automatically hate Jews or Israel. In fact, India is possibly the only country in the world without the slightest trace of antisemitism. Right after the horrific Hamas attack, many Indians offered to enlist to fight on behalf of beleaguered Israelis. They had to be turned down by the Israel embassy and consulates. This outpouring of support fills Israelis with wonder and gratitude. No one else has so much admiration and goodwill for Israel as we in India do. No wonder many young Israelis spend their break right after compulsory army service in India. In addition to being safe and welcoming, India is also very inexpensive.

Israel's response in Gaza has been brutal and hard-hitting. But when the officially stated ideology of Hamas is the annihilation of Israel, it would be disingenuous to hold only the latter to higher standards. Especially given the unprecedented barbarism and depravity of the October 7 attack.

Historically, Jews have been reviled, vilified, persecuted, driven out of many lands—especially across Christian Europe—and almost exterminated by Hitler in the Holocaust for no fault of theirs. Though other tribes, nations, and people have also suffered pogroms, massacres, and genocide, there is nothing in human history comparable to what the Jews suffered. And yet they are, according to their own scriptures, God's chosen. They love life and are grateful for its gifts, including having their own state.

Indians, especially Hindus, have also faced hatred, mass destruction and desecration of their holy shrines and sites, slavery, jijiya taxation, conquest, loot, plunder, mass murder, rape, conversion, and civilisational extinction. Yet, we never lost our holy land, Bharatavarsha, India, Hindustan. We are a country of over 1.5 million today, with some of the most fertile lands in the world, endowed with all the natural resources and human talent that we could wish for—truly *sujalam suphalam*, as immortalised by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in *Vande Mataram*.

Israel is a nation of only 10 million in an area of about 22,000 sq km, which makes it roughly the size of Manipur. India is 150 times its size, both in population and area. Yet, I am convinced after my trip that the relationship need not be as asymmetrical as these numbers suggest. Indeed, India has as much to learn and benefit from Israel as Israel from us.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

THE TALLEST KURU ELDER FROM THE MAHABHARATA

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

FEBRUARY 5 was a little-known event on the Indian calendar called Bhishma Ashtami. On this day, those who observe it offer *tarpan* or the water of remembrance to the soul of Bhishma, the Kuru elder in the *Mahabharata*. It is said by some that those who do not have a father or don't know his *gotra* (ancestry) and *nakshatra* (birth star) to offer *tarpan* during *shraadh* (ancestral remembrance), may do so during Bhishma Ashtami.

Bhishma towers over the epic landscape, and therefore over India, with his extraordinary personality. His given name was Devavrata. But he came to be called Bhishma, the Terrible, on account of the humanly terrible vow he took as a young man and the crown prince of the Kuru kingdom of Hastinapur. As is well-known, his father Shantanu—desolate after Bhishma's mother, the goddess Ganga, left him—fell in love again, this time with Satyavati, the daughter of a fisherman.

But Satyavati's shrewd father did not agree to the match as there was already a crown prince in place and none of Satyavati's future children could inherit the throne. It's a revelation about the norms of old Indian society that Shantanu as king did not just carry off Satyavati as '*droit du seigneur*' (right of the lord) but required her father's permission to marry her honourably. Also known as *jus primae noctis* (the right of the first night), it was a supposed legal right in medieval Europe allowing feudal lords to have sexual relations with any female subject, particularly on her wedding night.

Bhishma noticed his father's melancholy and found out the reason from Shantanu's charioteer. He went to Satyavati's father, took a solemn oath never to have children, and sought Satyavati's hand for his father. Satyavati's father was deeply impressed and agreed.

This astounding sacrifice by Devavrata won him the name of Bhishma. But as we know, the princely restraint about kidnapping women from other strata of society did not extend to princesses. Bhishma kidnapped Amba, Ambika and Ambalika, the three princesses of Kashi, from their *swayamvar* or bride-choice of marriage as wives for Satyavati's son, Pandu. When Amba begged Bhishma to free her so she could marry the king she loved, Bhishma set her free, but she found to her shock that the man she loved rejected her as "another man's leavings". Pandu, too, refused to marry her. Neither did Bhishma agree to marry her in reparation due to his vow.

Tender-hearted Amba turned into a fury scorned and vowed to kill Bhishma in her next birth for spoiling her life. And so she was reborn as Shikhandin, the transgender brother of Draupadi, and enabled Bhishma's downfall from Arjuna's chariot on the 10th day of the 18-day Battle of Kurukshetra.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Bhishma waited for 58 days on his bed of arrows to die on the auspicious day of Magha Shukla Ashtami, observed even today as Bhishma Ashtami. He gave mankind a lasting gift—the Vishnu Sahasranamam or 'Thousand Names of Vishnu' that he imparted to Yudhishthira from his bed of arrows

But Bhishma had a boon that he could choose his time of death, and so he waited for 58 days on his bed of arrows to die on the auspicious day of Magha Shukla Ashtami, which is observed even today as Bhishma Ashtami. We cannot imagine his suffering in that hugely uncomfortable state.

Bhishma is a complex character like so many in the *Mahabharata*, which is a living testament to Veda Vyasa's genius as a master storyteller. On the one hand, we have Bhishma's exalted love as a son for his father, that he could make such a superhuman sacrifice to make him happy. And his stoic acceptance of his fate at the end as a true warrior sets an example to all on how to face misfortune with courage and without complaint.

But the Amba story, even though it was then socially permitted to kidnap a princess, robs him of sympathy from a modern person. Princess Rukmini pleaded with Sri Krishna to kidnap her. Her letter to him began with the words '*Bhuvana sundara*', 'O most handsome man on earth'. She wanted Krishna to kidnap her because she was in love with him from afar and was repulsed by her brother's plan to marry her off to the unworthy Shishupala. But poor Amba did not want to be kidnapped and all her rightful hopes and dreams came crashing down because of it. So Bhishma does not shine in this episode.

For me, personally, the biggest blot on Bhishma is that, even though he was the ultimate Kuru elder, he did absolutely nothing to stop Draupadi's public humiliation by Duryodhana. Many stories were highlighted later to malign Draupadi, that she brought it on herself by laughing at Duryodhana and mocking Karna.

But nothing justifies what Duryodhana did out of hatred and malice. And Bhishma did not speak up even once for a woman, the daughter-in-law of his own house. Some people like to say that it was 'loyalty to the throne' that kept him silent. However, a *dharmic* warrior is supposed to uphold *dharma* and what Duryodhana did was utterly *adharmic*.

But in the end, Bhishma did something that redeems him in another way. It does not reduce the enormity of his crime against Draupadi, but there is no denying that he gave mankind a lasting gift—the *Vishnu Sahasranamam* or 'Thousand Names of Vishnu' that he imparted to Yudhishthira from his bed of arrows.

I was woken up every morning as a child by the sound of the *Vishnu Sahasranamam* record, chanted by M S Subbulakshmi, being played by my parents as auspicious sounds to start the day with. So Bhishma is an irrefutable part of 'me', as he is with millions.

(Views are personal)
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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

American fiascos

Ref: *Trumperialism plans to control world* (Feb 9). US President Donald Trump must recollect American fiascos in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and other such places. With his ambitious ideas, he has already earned the wrath of several European allies.
Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

Expansionist Trump

Trump's views on Canada becoming the 51st state and purchasing Greenland from Denmark reflect an expansionist mindset similar to Xi Jinping's claims over Taiwan and Tibet. While China uses military coercion, Trump's approach mixes economic pressure and nationalist rhetoric. Both, however, undermine sovereignty and self-determination. The world must reject such expansionist ideas.
T Kailash Ditya, Hyderabad

Student-centric approach

Ref: *Making coaching centres redundant* (Feb 9). To reform the current coaching culture, schools must adopt a student-centric approach, focusing on conceptual clarity rather than rote learning. Teachers should be equipped with modern pedagogical tools, integrating technology-driven interactive learning to make education more engaging.
Narayanan Kizhumundayur, Thrissur

Transforming education

Improving coaching centres requires a strategic approach to enhance learning outcomes and student satisfaction. By focusing on innovative teaching methods, personalised student support, modern technology, and fostering a positive learning environment, coaching institutes can create a transformative educational experience.
Aditya Kamble, Kalaburagi

Yamuna cleanup

Ref: *Will clean up Yamuna: Modi* (Feb 9). This type of statement is not expected from the prime minister. Whether his party wins the election or not, as the PM, he should undertake this work in the interest of the country. Does he mean to say this work would not have been taken up if the BJP lost?
D Sethuraman, Chennai

Delhi winners

Ref: *Delhi aam aadmi turns to BJP* (Feb 9). The Aam Aadmi Party that swept the assembly polls in 2015 and 2020 has met its nemesis in the BJP after 27 years. The BJP announced a lot of freebies but the *coup de grace* that swung the middle class vote was the steep hike in income tax exemption limit in the 2025-26 budget.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 61, No. 35 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

G Kishan Reddy @kishanreddybjp
With the loss of "partner in crime" Aam Admi Party in Delhi, the cat is out of the bag with KTR's open invitation to Congress to align with BRS.

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
The resignation of CM Biren Singh shows that mounting public pressure, the SC investigation and the no-confidence motion by the Congress have forced a reckoning.

Sushmita Dev @SushmitaDevAITC
Manipur files must be investigated and everyone responsible must be prosecuted. What has unfolded in Manipur is nothing short of mass destruction of lives and property which needs culpability.

Railways explores N-power option to cut fossil fuel usage

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE day is not far off when Indian Railways will power its trains with nuclear energy. In addition to working on the hydrogen-fuelled train project, the Railways is exploring the possibility of using nuclear energy to meet the growing power demand for train services.

The Ministry of Railways recently informed the Rajya Sabha about its efforts to explore this option. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the Ministry of Power both have been approached to explore this possibility.

Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, replying to a query, said, "Railways is exploring all possible energy options, including nuclear energy. It has been investigating the use of power from both existing and upcoming plants to meet part of its traction power needs."

He added that nuclear power, being a clean and reliable energy source, will assist Indian Railways in reducing its dependence on fossil fuels, thus cutting carbon emissions.

"The NPCIL and the Ministry of Power have been approached for the allocation of nuclear power to Indian Railways," Vaishnaw informed, adding that the power requirement for Railways continues to increase year-on-year. Besides this, the Railways has also initiated a cutting-edge project to develop its first hydrogen-powered train on a pilot basis, retrofitting a Hydrogen Fuel Cell onto Diesel Electric Multiple Unit rakes.

According to the railways, the specifications for this fully indigenously developed train have been prepared by the Research Design and Standards Organisation, and it is set to become one of the longest hydrogen trains in the world today. "It will also be one of the most powerful hydrogen trains globally," the ministry said.

Speaking about the project, Railways sources said that all necessary safety approvals for the facility layout from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation are in place. The hydrogen train project underscores Railways' commitment to advancing alternative energy-powered train travel.

Inclusive AI focal point at Paris summit today

PM Modi to co-chair the event with French Prez Emmanuel Macron

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

THE AI Action Summit — set to be hosted by France on Monday and Tuesday and co-chaired by President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi — will bring together global leaders, CEOs, academics, artists and civil society representatives to tackle critical challenges in the development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI).

With the goal of ensuring that AI benefits society in an inclusive manner, the economy, and the environment, the summit will address five key themes central to its vision for the future of AI.

Prime Minister Modi will begin the visit with a dinner hosted by President Macron at the Elysee Palace, in honour of the visiting Heads of Government and Heads of State.

With France aiming to build a consensus on the inclusive and sustainable use of AI, India expressed its expectation for a joint declaration to emerge from the summit.

At the AI action summit, a primary focus will be on public interest AI, showcasing projects that use AI to address societal issues and ensure that its benefits are shared equitably. Another crucial area of discussion will be the future of work, as AI's potential to enhance productivity must be balanced with its impact on jobs, labour practices, and economic stability. The summit will also explore how AI can foster innovation and cultural enrichment, ensuring that its applications respect and celebrate cultural diversity.

Building trust in AI systems is another core theme. The summit will highlight the importance of transparency, ethics, and accountability in AI development, focusing on how to create reliable systems that users can trust. Finally, global AI governance will be discussed, as AI's far-reaching impact requires international collaboration and regulation to ensure its responsible and fair use across borders.

Clara Chappaz, France's Secretary of State for Artificial Intelligence, stressed the need for an ethical, sustainable, and inclusive approach to AI.

Anne Bouverot, Special Envoy for the summit, emphasized the importance of harnessing global collaboration to address AI challenges. The summit will seek to provide a platform for innovative solutions, setting the stage for a future where AI is used responsibly to benefit all citizens and create a more resilient and sustainable world

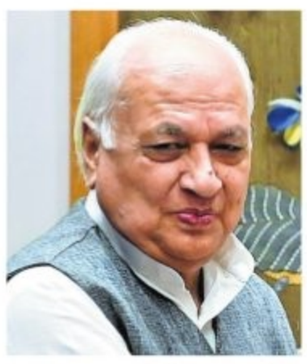
Points to ponder

At the AI action summit, a primary focus will be on public interest AI, showcasing projects that use AI to address societal issues and ensure that its benefits are shared equitably. Another crucial area of discussion will be the future of work, as AI's potential to enhance productivity must be balanced with its impact on jobs, labour practices, and economic stability. The summit will also explore how AI can foster innovation and cultural enrichment, ensuring that its applications respect and celebrate cultural diversity.

INSIDER TRACK

Caught in deputation cross hairs

Not a good news for four senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers of Uttarakhand cadre, who have been debarred from central deputation in Delhi or abroad. Those who have been debarred by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the cadre-controlling authority for IPS officers, include 2005-batch officers Neeru Garg and Mukhtar Mohsin, and 2006-batch officers Arun Mohan Joshi and Rajiv Swaroop. The Uttarakhand government had recommended the names of eight IPS officers to the Union government for central deputation in December last year. On January 4, the state wrote to MHA expressing its inability to send four of the officers, citing various reasons. However, the Centre had already approved the deputation of all the eight officers and made provision for their deployment in various forces. Following the state's letter, the MHA wrote back clarifying that the four officers would be prohibited from central deputations or going abroad in service of the country in future, if they are not deployed within a month.



New governor, new rules

Unlike his predecessor Arif Mohammed Khan, new Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar seems to have adopted a different strategy in engaging with media persons during his visits to the national capital. On his recent visit to Delhi on Friday, Arlekar disappointed the journalists, who thronged Kerala House to get a sound bite. Moreover, the journalists received a message from the Resident Commissioner's office the next day that the Governor does not want media presence in Kerala House during his visits. Media will be informed beforehand if the Governor wants to meet them, said the message. This is in contrast to Arif Mohammed Khan's style of functioning. During his visits to Delhi, Khan would meet the media multiple times. His statements in Delhi often sparked controversies, given the acrimonious ties between him and the CPM-led government in Kerala. Khan's five-year tenure in 'God's own country' was marked by constant tussles with the Pinarayi Vijayan government over various issues. After taking charge, Arlekar, who shares close ties with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, said that working together with the state government is the way forward and that the Governor post is above party lines.

Food for Marxist thought

Harkishan Singh Surjeet Bhawan on Kotla Road is home to the CPM party school, where they train their cadre and leaders. It is also the go-to spot for seminars and press conferences. With five floors and two basements, the building sits on land granted by the government in 2008. The construction was funded by contributions from party supporters, and it even has residential facilities. Given the growing number of visitors, now plans are on for opening a canteen that serves three meals and snacks throughout. The menu could figure South Indian dishes in a big way — probably because that is where CPM has its most electoral presence and source of most visitors to Surjeet Bhawan!

Aero India to display indigenous innovations

MAYANK SINGH @ Bengaluru

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh will on Monday inaugurate the 15th edition of 'Aero India' in Bengaluru that will showcase cutting-edge defence technologies and global aviation excellence.

The India Pavilion at 'Aero India', billed as Asia's largest air show, is expected to display of indigenous innovation and strategic advancements across land, air, sea, and space domains. Here is a sneak peak of the top-notch made-in-India equipment and defence systems expected to be the "crown jewels" of the show:

CATS Warrior: Defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd will showcase its indigenous products and technologies centred on the theme 'Innovate. Collaborate. Lead'. A full-scale engineering demonstrator of Combat Air Teaming System (CATS) Warrior, an unmanned and manned combat aircraft air teaming system, will be on display. It was earlier said that the CATS Warrior would have the LCA Tejas as the mothership platform.

KAATIL: Claimed to be the first of its kind in India, this jet-based loitering munition has been developed by a startup headquartered in Bengaluru. Loitering munition are unmanned aerial weapons that carry a warhead that hovers over a target area until it's time to attack. Experts have been talking about the need for the Indian Army to boost its capabilities by integrating more loitering munition.

Raven fully reusable rocket: This is an advanced aerospace vehicle engineered to ascend into space, deliver its payload, and return safely to earth. This capability allows it to be refuelled and prepared for subsequent missions, enhancing operational efficiency and sustainability in space exploration.

Mule NSUAS: The Multi Utility Long Endurance (MULE) NSUAS is a drone used by the Navy for maritime surveillance. It can be used for anti-piracy and anti-terrorist operations, and search and rescue.

RUDRAM II: This air-to-surface missile system has been developed by DRDO to neutralise enemy assets.

AI-Powered Mission Planning & Debrief System, which is a data-driven battlefield decision-making tool, is set to garner attention at the event. Beyond this, MBC2 Swarm Drone Systems, Gallium Nitride (GaN) Semiconductor Solutions, and D4 radar for anti-drone systems are likely to be big hits with the spectators.

Sukhoi Su-57 aircraft on display at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru | PTI

US fighters, bombers to be showcased at the air show

MAYANK SINGH @ Bengaluru

THE US will showcase a range of advanced aircraft at the Aero India 2025, reinforcing the "strong and growing" defence and aerospace partnership between the two countries.

The US embassy said on Sunday that America and India share a commitment to promoting regional security, stability, economic prosperity through diversified trade and strategic investment ties. This comes ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit to the US to meet President Trump.

"At Aero India 2025, more than two dozen American exhibitors will engage Indian counterparts, explore new business opportunities, and demonstrate innovative solutions in aviation and defence. These companies will display advancements in unmanned aerial systems (UAS), fighter aircraft, advanced avionics, and defense electronics," the embassy added.

US-made defence equipment and technology, including F-16, F-35, KC-135 Stratotanker and B-1 bomber, will be on display. Also, the US Air Force Band of the Pacific's 10-member ensemble, Final Approach, based out of Yokota air base in Japan, will perform through the week.

"The US is excited to once again participate in Aero India and to spotlight our strong defence ties with India. Our cooperation in defence, trade, and training is integral to our growing strategic partnership," said US embassy chargé d'affaires Jorgan Andrews.

US Air Force band to play for public for a week

US-made defence equipment and technology, including F-16, F-35, KC-135 Stratotanker and B-1 bomber, will be on display at the Aero India programme at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Karnataka. Also, the US Air Force Band of the Pacific's 10-member ensemble, Final Approach, based out of Yokota air base in Japan, will perform for the public throughout the week.

7-10 million Indians need palliative care, but only 4% have access to it

REGULATIONS KEEP MORPHINE AWAY
PAIN IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS REQUIRING PALLIATIVE CARE
Often, basic medicines like paracetamol and diclofenac cannot relieve severe pain in people with end-stage illnesses, making morphine a drug of choice
Morphine
opioid drug
5 ml. bottle
India is the second largest producer of opioids like morphine, globally. But less than 3% of this is consumed in the country due to strict governmental regulation and misconceptions in the medical community, contributing to poor access to this cheap and effective medicine

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

A whopping 7-10 million Indians need palliative care annually, but only less than 4% can access it due to various reasons — including restrictive prescription policies for controlled pain medications like morphine, and limited policy prioritisation.

The findings are from a study conducted by researchers from the Association for Socially Applicable Research (ASAR) in Pune, and published in the leading ecancer journal.

According to the study, led by Disha Agrawal and Dr Divya Shrinivas, given the rising number of patients needing palliative care in the country, it is essential that drugs like morphine and other pain relievers are made accessible.

The ASAR researchers evaluated whether the national and state Essential Medicines Lists (EML) for palliative care are adequately stocked. It found that neither of them met the criteria set by the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC).

The study said the national EML — designed by the Union Ministry of Health and last updated in 2022 — had 15 drugs, or 46 per cent of all medicines recommended by the IAHPC for palliative care.

The IAHPC has suggested 22 essential drugs for 16 of the most common palliative care symptoms, such as depression, pain, anxiety and vomiting, prevalent in end-stage chronic diseases linked to kidney failure, liver failure and cancer.

According to Dr Parth Sharma, corresponding author of the article, with India rising to the top globally in multiple chronic diseases such as diabetes and cancer, the suffering in the communities is expected to increase significantly.

"Access to palliative care is still abysmal in India. Pain is one of the most common symptoms requiring palliative care. Often, basic medicines like paracetamol and diclofenac are not able to relieve severe pain in people with life-limiting illnesses. Morphine then becomes the drug of choice for pain relief," he said.

Meet more often to promote tourism, ministry told

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE officials of Indian Missions and Ministry of Tourism (MoT) have met only on five occasions to discuss plans to promote Indian tourism destinations, festivals and exhibitions since the appointment of 'tourism officers' in 20 embassies and high commissions abroad.

The 31-member parliamentary standing committee on transport, tourism and culture headed by Rajya Sabha MP of Janata Dal (United) Sanjay Kumar Jha has taken note of the limited number of meetings and asked the ministry to ensure regular interactions for 'better communication and collaboration'.

"The committee is concerned about the limited number of meetings held by the tourism officers with Indian stakeholders and foreign tourism business-to-business (B2B) players since their appointment. The Ministry should ensure that regular and frequent meetings are scheduled to foster better communication and collaboration," the panel said in its latest report tabled in both Houses of Parliament recently.

Earlier also, the committee had suggested regular meetings between tourism officers in Indian Missions and the ministry to chalk out an action plan to enhance foreign tourist arrivals and popularize India as a 'favourite tourist destination'.

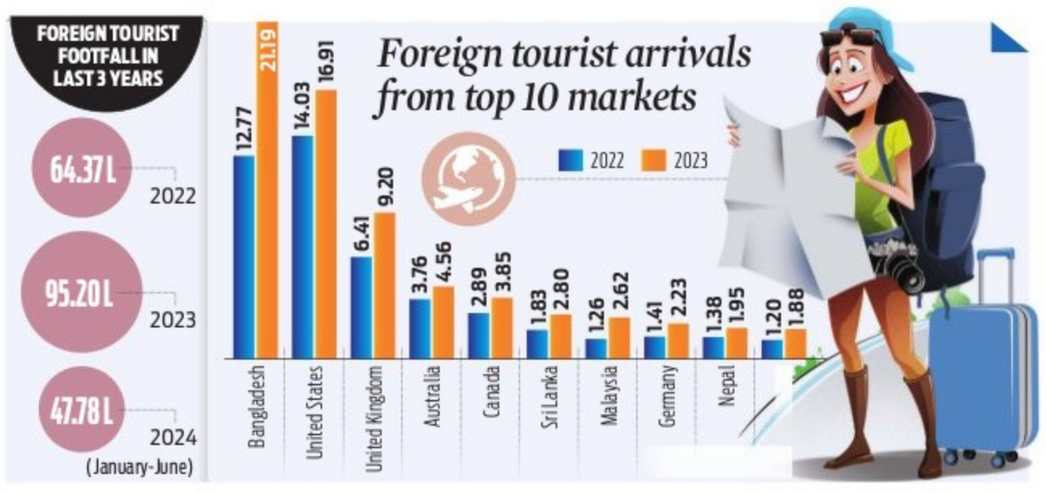
The Centre shut down all the overseas Indian tourism offices in December 2022 and the responsibility of tourism promotion as entrusted with the 'Tourism Officer', who is a first or second secretary rank official of the ministry of external affairs already serving in the Indian diplomatic office in foreign countries. The officers were appointed in 20 countries from where India receives the maximum number of tourists.

In response to the details sought by the Panel of the parliamentarians on meetings also involving foreign tourism agents and B2B players since their appointment. The MoT submitted that five meetings were held with Indian Missions officials for discussions relating to activities to promote India as a preferred tourist destination.

"The ministry of tourism is in continuous discussion and consultation with MEA and India Missions for achieving the desired objectives," the MoT submitted.

On funding for promotion activities abroad, the ministry informed that it has been assisting tourism officers and providing them promotional material on the basis of requests received from them.

Further commenting on the funding issue, the Committee suggested that both the ministries should have funds for publicity material, activities and the programme to go ahead with the work relating to tourism promotion.



FOREST FIRE

At least four landmines exploded due to a forest fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Sunday, but there was no casualty, officials said.

3 KILLED AS TRUCK COLLIDES WITH SUV IN MP

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	27	17	Mumbai	32	24
Bhopal	23	11	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	24	10	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	21	07	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	31	23	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	29	17	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	13	-03	Chandigarh	42	23

AAP in for a vertical split: Cong

Says over 30 AAP MLAs in touch with the party for almost a year, ready to switch sides

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

AFTER a humiliating defeat in the Delhi assembly elections, the Punjab unit of AAP is likely to face an internal bickering and a potential split, according to Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa. The veteran Congress leader had claimed that more than 30 AAP MLAs have been in touch with the grand old party for almost a year, ready to switch sides.

Bajwa told this newspaper that now a leadership battle is imminent, as the AAP leadership in Delhi will exert more control over Punjab. This move would face a strong resistance by CM Mann leading to a split in the party.

"The party leadership in the capital may want to replace Mann, especially since all the MLAs and the cadre in the state are aligned with party's national convener Arivnd Kejriwal. A by-election is due in Ludhiana (West) assembly constituency. Kejriwal may be eyeing this seat to join the state assembly," he claimed.

Interestingly, CM Bhagwant Mann was a key campaigner, participating in many rallies and road shows during the Delhi assembly polls.

In bureaucratic circles there is a growing feeling that the AAP national convener and other top leaders may attempt to micromanage affairs in the state.

Leading political analyst Kuldip Singh said, "Both Congress and BJP will want AAP to split in Punjab as they regard the party as a major rival in 2027 assembly elections. Therefore, weather AAP splits or not entirely depends on its internal politics. If Kejriwal chooses to contest from Ludhiana (West) it will be damaging for the party and could be damaging for the party and may signify end of his national ambitions."

Rejecting the claims, Punjab AAP spokesperson Neel Garg suggested that Bajwa should worry about his own party's prospects. "Kejriwal is our national convener and Mann is Punjab CM. The graph of the Congress is going down at a rapid pace, in Delhi for third time in a row they scored a naught. In 2022 Punjab elections, it had only 18 MLAs, which will reduce further in the 2027 polls. Just look at the recent municipal elections in the state -- what was Congress's performance?"

"Bajwa is simply indulging in gossip mongering and he should refrain from doing so. The entire party stands united, and there is no possibility of a vertical split within the state unit," he added.

"Bajwa should be concerned about Congress not winning even a single seat in Delhi," he said.

Saini: Punjab will soon oust 'Aap-da' from power

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini celebrated BJP's historic surge by serving jalebis at Haryana Bhavan. Saini said that just like in Delhi, the people of Punjab will soon oust the 'Aap-da' party from power. He added that the people of Delhi have endorsed PM Narendra Modi's guarantees in the assembly elections and his policies will be implemented in Delhi, ensuring that people benefit from welfare schemes like Ayushman Yojana.

Yamuna remark cost 5-7 seats to AAP, says Khattar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bhopal

UNION minister and former Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar said on Sunday that Arvind Kejriwal's comment on Yamuna water poisoning cost the AAP 5-7 more seats in the Delhi assembly polls.

Khattar, talking about the recent union budgetary pronouncements, said, "Water disputes exists between various states, but Kejriwal has made it a habit of blaming others if he is unable to fulfil his commitments. I still remember him having made a challenging statement that if river Yamuna wasn't cleaned, he would not contest the polls in 2025."

"He subsequently made the false statement of Haryana poisoning Yamuna water, but that statement turned dear to him. Had he not made that statement, his party would've won 5-7 seats more," Khattar said.

He added that more than 40% of Delhi's population comes from Haryana and the statement did not go down well with people from Haryana and Delhi, resulting in AAP's defeat.

Modi's 'parjeevi' jibe at Congress triggers political outcry in Bihar

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Congress a 'parjeevi' (parasite) party that feeds off its allies, Congress and RJD on Sunday said that the PM should first introspect and then attack the opposition. Taking a swipe at the PM, they said that before attacking the opposition alliance, he should consider how BJP was treating its allies in different states.

Addressing BJP workers at the party headquarters in New Delhi, Modi accused the Congress of stealing the agenda of its coalition partners in an attempt to erode their vote banks. In Bihar, Congress is spreading the poison of casteism and is engaged in eating the patent of its ally RJD, he said.

The remarks have created ripples in political circles ahead of Bihar assembly elections. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited Bihar twice in less than a week to reach out to other backward castes, extremely backward castes and Dalits.

The PM's remark is seen against the backdrop of the grand old party's attempt to make inroads into the OBC vote bank when its ally, RJD's politics mainly revolves around OBC votes.

However, the entry of political strategist-turned activist Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party has made the assembly elections more interesting. It's not clear whether Jan Suraaj will eat into the votes of BJP-led NDA or grand alliance comprising RJD, Congress and Left parties in the state.

RJD leader and Rajya Sabha member Manoj Jha said that now BJP will not have any excuse as there will be a double engine government in Delhi. "There should not be politics in the name of Ganga-Yamuna," he added.

He said the situation in Bihar is different from other states. "In 2020, RJD emerged as the single largest party despite stiff opposition," he said and asked PM Modi to come to Bihar with an open mind. "Come to Bihar, Biharis will decide on your fate (fate of NDA)," he asserted.

Meanwhile, senior RJD leader and party spokesperson Ejaz Ahmad said that the PM should have looked at NDA first before making any comment on the opposition alliance.

30 held in J&K over SIMs to terrorists in a yr

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

IN a major crackdown, the J&K police has arrested at least 30 people in a year for allegedly procuring SIM cards in their names and giving it to militants. Police have ramped up efforts to curb misuse of SIM cards by terrorists and criminal elements in the UT.

"Extensive inspections have been carried out across J&K including Srinagar, Anantnag, Budgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Bandipora districts in Valley and Samba and Kishtwar districts in Jammu region to ensure strict compliance with KYC norms. It aims to prevent unauthorized issuance and misuse of SIM cards, maintaining the security of communication networks," he said.

The J&K police's State Investigation Agency and district police units are taking firm action against such violations. "Any individual found facilitating misuse of SIM cards for terrorism or organized crime will face strict action," they said.

Last week, Counter Intelligence Kashmir wing of J&K detained five persons in Valley over their alleged involvement in smuggling SIM cards inside the central jail premises.

Biren, ex-footballer who became CM after revolt against Ibobi-led govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

A national-level footballer-turned-politician, **N Biren Singh** had first donned the chief minister's mantle after raising a banner of revolt against Okram Ibobi Singh-led Congress government.

He was first elected to the Assembly in 2002 as a Democratic Revolutionary People's Party candidate. He joined the Congress the next year and the party appointed him as a minister. He served as a minister also during the next two terms after he had successfully contested the polls.

His relationship with then chief minister Ibobi Singh started turning sour during the latter's third term. He quit the Congress and joined the BJP in 2016. The BJP appointed him as the spokesperson and co-convener of its Election Management Committee.

He donned the Chief Minister's mantle in March 2017 after helping the BJP cobble up the numbers. The BJP had won 21 seats compared to the Congress' 28 in the 60-member House. Despite an anti-incumbency wave, he had managed to secure a victory for the BJP as it retained power in 2022.

His first term was marked by differences within the NDA parties which saw the National People's Party withdrawing support to the government. Later, it returned to the government following a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Singh would surely want to forget his second term as the chief minister. An ethnic conflict partitioned the state internally after claiming lives and displacing people.

There has not been any major violence in the past few weeks but the ethnic tensions between Meiteis and Kukis persist.

Raids on wildlife smugglers unearth narcotics haul in MP

ANURAAG SINGH @Bhopal

A raid by the forest department's tiger strike force in search of key players of an inter-state racket of wildlife poachers and smugglers has led to massive haul of narcotics in tribal dominated Dindori district of Madhya Pradesh.

The tiger strike force of MP state forest department along with forest department staff raided the hideout of Surya -- the wanted kingpin of an inter-state wildlife smuggling racket and his two key aides – in Padariya village in Shahpura area of Dindori district. However, Surya and aides managed to escape before raids.

The raids, though, led to the seizure of large quantity of explosives, a mammoth net (used to capture wild animals) and around seven quintals Ganja.

According to sources, JCB machine was used to unearth the haul of drugs from the hideout of the wildlife smuggling racket's key players. The forest department teams subsequently informed the Dindori police about the development

Apart from drugs, a pressure bomb and other explosive, besides a massive net seized from the hideout. Around a dozen expensive motorbikes too have been seized during the operation. Also, four teenagers have been detained for questioning from the hideout. Their questioning is likely to lead to the prime players of the racket, who are on the run.

According to a senior forest department official, the operation was conducted based on specific inputs about the presence of the kingpin of the racket and his key aides. But they managed to flee.

But clinching clues have been secured during the operation about the absconding men and efforts are underway to track and nab them at the earliest.

Importantly, the wildlife crime control bureau (WCCB) has recently issued an alert to multiple states, including Madhya Pradesh, about gangs indulgent in wild animals, particularly tigers poaching.

Pressure bomb, explosives seized from hideout

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9 earthquakes in 20 days leave U'khand on edge

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun

IN a concerning series of seismic events, the Uttarkashi district, classified as highly sensitive in terms of seismic activity, has experienced nine earthquakes over the past 20 days. The tremors began on January 24, with three jolts recorded, two of which registered magnitudes of 2.5 and 3.5 on the Richter scale.

According to the Uttarkashi District Disaster Management Authority, the seismic activity in the region has intensified, with two earthquakes felt on January 25. The first quake registered a magnitude of 2.4. A week later, another significant tremor rattled the area, causing residents to flee their homes in panic. "The ground shook violently, and we had no choice but to run outside," recounted local resident Meera Devi.

The latest quake struck late Saturday night at 1:40 am, further heightening fears among the local population. "Every tremor leaves us more anxious," said Ramesh Kumar, an Uttarkashi resident. "We are constantly on edge, wondering when the next one will hit."

Jayprakash Singh Pawar, the District Disaster Management Officer, said, "Local residents have felt earthquake tremors at various locations over the past 20 days, but the IMD has officially recorded seven seismic events." He added, "Fortunately, there have been no reports of loss of life or property."

Naresh Kumar, Chief Scientist of the Earthquake Department at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, said, "The Main Central Thrust is a seismically active belt. Earthquake tremors are also predominantly felt around this area. The Greater Himalayas lie to the north, while the Lesser Himalayas are to the south."

He further explained, "The Indian Plate continues to move towards the Eurasian Plate. It is this collision between the plates that has led to the formation of the Main Central Thrust, which separates the Greater Himalayas from the Lesser Himalayas. Its slope extends towards northern Tibet and stretches approximately 2,200 kilometers from northwest to southeast across the Himalayas."

Due to its location between two tectonic plates, this region is highly sensitive and extremely vulnerable. "The movements within the Earth release energy from these weak zones, resulting in frequent occurrences of earthquakes and landslides," explained Dr. Naresh Kumar, Chief Scientist at the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology.

In addition to the Main Central Thrust, the Main Boundary Thrust is situated between the Lesser and Shivalik Himalayas. Meanwhile, the Himalayan Front Fault lies between the Shivalik range and the vast plains.

'Highly sensitive and extremely vulnerable'

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₹4.5K crore okayed for asphalt roads along Pak border to curb smuggling

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

THE Centre has approved construction of 1,450 km asphalt roads along the Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan and Punjab with an estimated budget of ₹4,500 crore, in a move to improve BSF personnel's mobility and curb cross-border smuggling activities, officials said.

BSF Inspector General ML Garg said, "Rajasthan will see construction of 1,096 km of roads, while the remaining 354 km will be laid in Punjab. The project is expected to commence within a month."

The road network will be built adjacent to the zero-line fencing, covering key border districts in Rajasthan, such as Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Sriganganagar, and several areas in Punjab.

Currently, BSF soldiers face difficulties in patrolling the border due to shifting sand dunes and rough terrain. The new roads will enable them to move efficiently on foot as well as in vehicles. Faster vehicular movement will also reduce response time between border outposts, officials said.

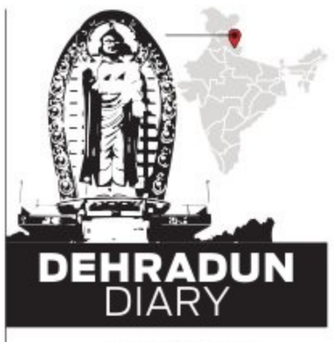
The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) initially proposed the project in 2021, which later received approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs. "While construction work has already begun in Punjab, the project in Rajasthan will commence from Barmer and extend through Jaisalmer, Bikaner, and Sriganganagar," Garg said.

The road infrastructure is expected to significantly curb smuggling, particularly the transportation of heroin and other narcotics. The presence of well-constructed roads will make it more challenging for smugglers to use underground tunnels for illicit activities, BSF officials said.

The BSF thwarted numerous large-scale operations along the India-Pakistan border in 2024, with Punjab's Ferozepur and Tarn Taran districts emerging as key hotspots. The Ferozepur sector, including Ferozepur and Tarn Taran districts, alone accounted for 87 of the 286 drones intercepted along the border this year, highlighting the increasing use of drones in illicit activities.

According to the BSF Punjab frontier, 2024 saw the seizure of 70.99 kg of heroin, nine firearms with 158 rounds of ammunition, 87 drones, and the apprehension of nine Indian and eight Pakistani nationals in the Ferozepur sector alone.

Government data shows that over 260 drones have been downed or recovered from Indo-Pak border in 2024 compared to about 110 in 2023. Maximum interdictions of drones carrying arms and drugs have taken place in Punjab.



DEHRADUN DIARY

NARENDRA SETHI

Our correspondent in Uttarakhand

narendrasethi@newindianexpress.com

Two from U'khand win Delhi assembly polls

Among the winners of the Delhi assembly elections are two politicians with roots in Uttarakhand. Ravi Negi, the BJP candidate from Patparganj, defeated AAP's Awadh Ojha by over 28,000 votes. "I am grateful for the support from my constituency," said Negi, a resident of Dol in Almora district. Meanwhile, Mohan Singh Bisht from Mustafabad made history with his sixth consecutive win. "This victory reflects the trust of the people," said Bisht, who previously won elections in 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, and 2020. The results highlight the influence of the 4 million people from Uttarakhand in Delhi.

Yogi inspects schools, recalls his journey

During his three-day visit to Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath inspected local schools and reflected on his own educational background. He completed his primary education at the Government Primary School in Thangar. After becoming CM he focused on enhancing infrastructure of such schools. He completed his sixth grade at the Junior High School in Thangar and continued his education from seventh to ninth grade at Janata Inter College in Chamkotkhal. He completed his tenth grade at Government Inter College in Gaja, Tehri, and finished higher secondary education at Bharat Mandir Inter College in Rishikesh.

From rural roots to 'Drone Didi'

Tanuja Verma from Pithoragarh, Roshni from Gairsain, and Jashoda from Uttarkashi have transformed their lives by going from not using a laptop at all to becoming skilled drone operators. "We are now confidently assembling, repairing, and flying drones," they shared. This journey is made possible by the Uttarakhand government's ITDA Drone Service Technician Course, known as "Drone Didi." The training at the Rishikesh Center will conclude with an exam, and successful trainees will receive certificates from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

50
Abuse of migrants Bodies discovered from two mass graves in Libya

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	4	-8	SNY	Los Angeles	18	9	SNY
Colombo	34	23	SNY	Melbourne	26	18	SNY
Dhaka	27	16	SNY	Moscow	-1	-4	LC
Dubai	25	19	SNY	New York	2	-5	SNY
Houston	22	18	LC	Singapore	31	25	LC
Istanbul	6	1	LR	Toronto	-4	-7	LC
London	5	3	LR	Washington	7	0	SNY

Arabs pan Netanyahu suggestion of Gaza state in Saudi Arabia

Israeli PM, responding to a query on normalisation of ties with Saudis, quipped that a Palestinian state can be formed there

Egyptian foreign minister leaves for Washington

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty left for Washington on Sunday to meet with top US officials and members of Congress after President Donald Trump floated a plan to relocate Gazans to Egypt and Jordan. His departure came as Cairo announced it would host an "emergency Arab summit" on February 27 to discuss "the latest serious developments" concerning the Palestinian territories. According to a statement, Abdelatty's visit aims "to boost bilateral relations and (the) strategic partnership between Egypt and the US", and will include "consultations on regional developments"

RIYADH

SAUDI Arabia and other Arab countries condemned on Sunday remarks by Israel's prime minister who appeared to suggest in an interview that a Palestinian state could be established on Saudi territory.

Benjamin Netanyahu's remarks, which some Israeli media characterised as a joke, came with the region already on edge after US President Donald Trump proposed taking over the territory and displacing Gazans abroad.

Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul Gheit said on Sunday that the thinking behind Netanyahu's remarks "is unacceptable and reflects a complete detachment from reality", adding that such ideas "are nothing more than mere fantasies or illusions".

The Saudi foreign ministry stressed its "categorical rejection to such statements that aim to divert attention from the continuous crimes committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian brothers in Gaza".

A ministry statement welcomed "the condemnation, disapproval and total rejection announced by the brotherly countries towards what Benjamin Netanyahu stated regarding the displacement of the Palestinian people".

In a television interview on Thursday, right-wing Israeli journalist Yaakov Bardugo was discussing with Netanyahu the prospect of diplomatic normalisation with Saudi Arabia when

Benjamin Netanyahu

he appeared to misspeak, attributing to Riyadh the stance that there would be "no progress without a Saudi state".

"Palestinian state?" Netanyahu corrected him.

"Unless you want the Palestinian state to be in Saudi Arabia," the Israeli premier quipped. "They (the Saudis) have plenty of territory."

Netanyahu went on to describe the talks leading up to the so-called Abraham Accords, in which several Arab countries normalised ties with Israel, concluding: "I think we should allow this process to take its course."

But the suggestion of a state for Palestinians outside the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank prompted an outpouring of regional condemnation, including from Qatar, Egypt and the Palestinian foreign ministry, which described the remarks as "racist".

Jordan's foreign ministry condemned them. *AFP*

Israeli forces withdraw from corridor in Gaza

GAZA CITY

A Hamas official said Israeli troops completed their withdrawal on Sunday from a strategic road cutting through the Gaza Strip, part of a fragile truce deal that Israel said it was implementing.

An official from the Hamas-run interior ministry said "Israeli forces have dismantled their positions... and completely withdrawn their tanks from the Netzarim Corridor on Salaheddin Road, allowing vehicles to pass freely in both directions."

Gaza resident Mahmoud al-Sarhi said that for him, "arriving at the Netzarim Corridor meant death until this morning."

This is "the first time I saw our destroyed house," he said of his home in the nearby Zeitun area.

"The entire area is in ruins. I cannot live here."

According to a senior Hamas official, the Israeli withdrawal from Netzarim had been scheduled for Sunday under the terms of a truce that took effect on January 19.

Asked about Sunday's withdrawal, an Israeli security official said: "We are preparing to implement the ceasefire agreement according to the guidelines of the political echelon." Under the terms of the ceasefire, Israel and Hamas completed on Saturday their fifth round of hostage-prisoner exchange, with three Israeli hostages and 183 Palestinian prisoners released.

Palestinians cross the Netzarim corridor as they make their way to the northern parts of the Gaza Strip on Sunday | AFP

Netanyahu denounced Hamas as "monsters" after the handover of the three captives, who appeared emaciated and were forced to speak on a stage flanked by Hamas gunmen.

The hospital treating former hostages Or Levy and Eli Sharabi said they were in a "poor medical condition", while Ohad Ben Ami was in a "severe nutritional state".

Of the prisoners freed from Israeli jails, the Palestinian Prisoners' Club advocacy group said seven required hospitalisation, decrying "brutality" and mistreatment in jail.

Halfway around the world, in Bangkok, five Thai farm workers held hostage by Hamas and freed in an earlier swap wept with joy as they returned home on Sunday.

"You are back, I thought you were dead," the grandfather of 33-year-old Watchara Sriaoun told him. Senior Hamas official Bassem Naim on Saturday warned that Israel's "lack of commitment in implementing the first phase... exposes this agreement to danger and thus it may stop or collapse". *AFP*

Three civilians shot dead in Gaza City

After Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli forces shot dead three civilians on Sunday, as the military said it fired "warning shots" and hit Palestinians who had approached troops in the territory. The incident occurred in Gaza City. Israel's military acknowledged that its forces had fired at individuals who came near

OPPOSITION TO CHINA'S UK EMBASSY

Hundreds of demonstrators on Saturday protested at a site earmarked for Beijing's new embassy in London over human rights and security concerns. The new embassy – if approved by the UK government – would be the "biggest Chinese embassy in Europe". Protesters wanted to register their opposition against new embassy which they fear could be used as a 'spy hub' | AFP

7.6 magnitude earthquake shakes Caribbean

MEXICO CITY

A magnitude-7.6 earthquake shook the Caribbean Sea south of the Cayman Islands on Saturday, according to the US Geological Survey. Several islands and countries urged people near the coastline to move inland but authorities in most places later lifted the tsunami alerts.

The quake struck at 6:23 pm in the middle of the sea and had a depth of 10 km, the USGS said. Its epicenter was located 209 km south-southwest of George Town in the Cayman Islands.

The US National Tsunami Warning Center said there was no tsunami alert for the US mainland but issued a tsunami advisory for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, which was later cancelled.

Hazard Management Cayman Islands urged residents near the coast to move inland and to higher ground, warning that wave heights of 0.3 to 1 meter were expected. The Cayman Islands government later issued on "all clear" on its Facebook site.

Puerto Rico Gov. Jenniffer González Colón said in a statement she is in contact with emergency agencies after the tsunami advisory, but did not recommend anyone leave the coast.

The sounding of alarms in Puerto Rico's northwest region had caused people to leave coastal areas and caused heavy traffic, according to local media.

The Dominican government also issued a tsunami alert and recommended residents on the coast move to high areas "of more than 20 meters of altitude and 2 kilometers inland." But it later canceled the alert.

Honduran authorities said there are no immediate reports of damages, but urged its residents to stay away from beaches. The Cuban government requested people to leave beachfront areas.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said tsunami waves are possible along some coasts. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

MALAYSIA

ANWAR DROPS PROPOSAL FOR MUSLIMS

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has backtracked from a controversial proposal to issue guidelines for Muslims who want to participate in non-Muslim events, saying his Cabinet has scrapped the idea following fierce backlash from various groups, *The Straits Times* reported. "There is no need (for the guidelines) because as Muslims they should know" the dos and don'ts, Seri Anwar said, following the weekly Cabinet meeting. "Like right now, I'm here not to participate in any (Hindu) prayers," he told reporters as he visited the famous temple at Batu Caves in Selangor.

INDONESIA

TWO UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS CAUGHT

The Foreign Affairs Ministry announced that two undocumented Indonesians got arrested in the US amid Donald Trump's immigration crackdown, *Jakarta Globe* reported. An Indonesian known by the initials TRN got detained in Atlanta, Georgia on Jan 29. The other arrested Indonesian has been on the deportation list since 2009.

SINGAPORE

EX-MINISTER GIVEN HOUSE ARREST

Disgraced former Singapore transport minister S Iswaran, who is serving a 12-month jail term for obstructing justice and receiving more than $300,000 of gifts, was placed on home detention scheme, *SCMP* reported. "Like all inmates emplaced on the Home Detention Scheme, S Iswaran will serve his remaining sentence at his residence under specified conditions, which include curfew monitoring using an electronic monitoring tag, being gainfully occupied either in work, study or training, and reporting to SPS for counselling," according to Singapore Prison Service.

US: Consumer protection agency shuts

WASHINGTON

THE Trump administration has ordered the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to stop nearly all its work, effectively shutting down an agency that was created to protect consumers after the 2008 financial crisis and subprime mortgage-lending scandal.

Russell Vought, the newly installed director of the Office of Management and Budget, directed the CFPB in a Saturday night email stop work on proposed rules, to suspend the effective dates on any rules that were finalised but not yet effective, and to stop investigative work and not begin any new investigations.

The agency has been a target of conservatives since President Barack Obama pushed to include it in the 2010 financial reform legislation that followed the 2007-2008 financial crisis.

The email also ordered the bureau to 'cease all supervision and examination activity.'

Since the CFPB is a creation of Congress, it would require a separate act of Congress to formally eliminate it. But the head of the agency has discretion over what enforcement actions to take, if any.

Yet Elon Musk commented, 'CFPB RIP' on social media site X on Friday. And the CFPB homepage on the Internet was down on Sunday, replaced by a message reading 'page not found.' Also late Saturday, Vought said that the CFPB would no longer withdraw funds from the Federal Reserve. *AP*

Experts call for regulation of AI before it is too late

PARIS

EXPERTS from around the world have called for greater regulation of AI to prevent it escaping human control, as global leaders gather in Paris for a summit on the technology.

France, co-hosting the Monday and Tuesday gathering with India, has chosen to spotlight AI 'action' in 2025 rather than put the safety concerns front and centre as at the previous meetings in Britain's Bletchley Park in 2023 and the Korean capital Seoul in 2024.

The French vision is for governments, businesses and other actors to come out in favour of global governance for AI and make commitments on sustainability, without setting binding rules.

"We don't want to spend our time talking only about the risks. There's the very real opportunity aspect as well," said Anne Bouverot, AI envoy for President Emmanuel Macron.

Max Tegmark, head of the US-based Future of Life Institute that has regularly warned of AI's dangers, said that France should not miss the opportunity to act.

"France has been a wonderful champion of international collaboration and has the opportunity to really lead the rest of the world," the MIT physicist said.

"There is a big fork in the road here at the Paris summit and it should be embraced."

Tegmark's institute has backed the Sunday launch of a platform dubbed Global Risk and AI Safety Preparedness (GRASP) that aims to map major risks linked to AI and solutions being developed around the world.

"We've identified around 300 tools and technologies in answer to these risks," said GRASP coordinator Cyrus Hodes.

Results from the survey will be passed to the OECD rich-countries club and members of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), a grouping of almost 30 nations including major European economies, Japan, South Korea and the United States that will meet in Paris on Sunday.

The past week also saw the presentation of the first International AI Safety Report on Thursday, compiled by 96 experts and backed by 30 countries, the UN, EU and OECD. Risks outlined in the document range from fake content online to the far more alarming. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Kim slams US, S Korea, Japan partnership

Seoul: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said an elevated US security partnership with South Korea and Japan poses a grave threat to his country and vowed to further bolster his nuclear weapons programme, state media reported Sunday. Kim has previously made similar warnings, but his latest statement implies again that the North Korean leader won't likely embrace President Donald Trump's overture to meet him and revive diplomacy anytime soon. Kim said the US-Japan-South Korea trilateral security partnership is inviting military imbalance on the Korean Peninsula

Polls in Ecuador may see incumbent's return

GUAYAQUIL

ECUADOR's presidential election on Sunday is shaping up to be a repeat of the 2023 race, when voters chose a young, conservative millionaire over the leftist protegee of the country's most influential president this century.

President Daniel Noboa and Luisa Gonzalez are the clear front-runners among the pool of 16 candidates. All have promised voters to reduce the widespread crime that pushed their lives into an unnerving new normal four years ago. The spike in violence across the South American country is tied to the trafficking of cocaine produced in neighbouring Colombia and Peru.

President Daniel Noboa holds up his ballot before voting on Sunday | AP

So many voters have become crime victims that their personal and collective losses will be a determining factor in deciding whether a third president in four years can turn Ecuador around or if Noboa deserves more time in office.

Voting is mandatory in Ecuador. In the port city of Guayaquil, people lined up under a light rain outside a public university where tens of thousands were expected to cast ballots.

More than 13.7 million people are eligible to vote. To win outright, a candidate needs 50% of the vote or at least 40 per cent with a 10-point lead over the closest challenger. If needed, a runoff election would take place on April 13.

Noboa defeated Gonzalez in the October 2023 runoff of a snap election that was triggered to dissolve the National Assembly. *AP*

₹7,300 cr have been withdrawn by FPIs so far.

Follow finfluencers' tips at your own risk

As SEBI tightens its grip on unregistered finfluencers, it serves as a stark reminder for investors to exercise caution

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

IN a significant move, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken stringent action against Asmita Patel, Asmita School Global, and four other associates, spotlighting the growing risks associated with unregistered financial influencers, or 'finfluencers,' and their impact on retail investors. SEBI has impounded over ₹ 53 crore collected by these entities as fees for various investment-related courses, marking a pivotal moment in the regulator's efforts to curb unregulated financial advice.

According to SEBI's order, Patel allegedly provided stock recommendations to investors through private Telegram channels, Zoom meetings, and educational courses without obtaining the mandatory registration from the regulator. The order further revealed that Patel encouraged participants to quit their jobs and enroll in her course, MPAT, promising them the opportunity to achieve "something big."

This case underscores a broader trend of unregistered finfluencers leveraging platforms like Telegram and private online classes to lure retail investors with promises of quick wealth. Often disguised as educational sessions, these influencers frequently offer advisory services, urging participants to invest in specific avenues. However, such schemes often result in significant financial losses for unsuspecting investors.

A fund manager at a leading asset management company (AMC) highlighted the lack of formal training and licensing among many finfluencers. Unlike registered financial advisors who adhere to strict regulatory guidelines and fiduciary responsibilities, these influencers operate without oversight. "Without proper regulation, investors are often left to navigate advice that hasn't undergone rigorous analysis," the fund manager noted.

The fund manager also pointed to potential conflicts of interest, as many influencers earn affiliate commissions or sponsorship fees, which could compromise the objectivity of their recommendations. In some cases, influencers have been accused of promoting products or even engaging in pump-and-dump schemes, where they hype an asset before selling their own holdings, leaving followers to bear the losses.

Market experts have warned that the influence of trending tips and viral content can lead to herd behavior among investors. Driven by the fear of missing out (FOMO) on high-return promises, retail investors often bypass proper due diligence, making emotional decisions that can result in substantial financial losses when market conditions shift.

A senior analyst at a leading brokerage firm emphasized the importance of skepticism and independent research. "Investors should remain wary of hype-driven recommendations and always verify claims with multiple reliable sources. Consulting licensed professionals for personalized advice is crucial," he advised.

In response to the growing menace of misinformation and investor losses, SEBI has intensified its efforts to rein in unregistered finfluencers.

To further curb the misuse of social media platforms, SEBI issued a draft circular last month restricting the use of live share price data by finfluencers who disguise stock tips as educational content. The regulator clarified that individuals engaged solely in education cannot provide investment advice or recommendations unless they are registered advisors.

IN CONVERSATION

MOHAN LAKHAMRAJU
Founder & CEO, Great Learning

'Online learning is absolutely here to stay; offline is costly'

EDTECH company for professional learning and upskilling Great Learning is leveraging AI to launch new courses starting at ₹1,500. In 2021, the company was acquired by edtech company Byju's, which is currently undergoing insolvency proceedings, for $600 million. But Great Learning has now come out of Byju's clutches. The company has been profitable for eight of the last 11 years, and its revenue grew by 23% to $118 million in FY24 compared to $96 million in FY23. In an interaction with TNIE's **Uma Kannan**, **Mohan Lakhamraju**, Founder & CEO of Great Learning, said that he doesn't regret the transaction (acquisition by Byju's) and that it was the right thing at that time. Edited excerpts:

Post Covid-19 pandemic, not many online edtech companies could survive. What is the future of edtech firms?

I think online learning is absolutely here to stay. If you want to increase the gross enrolment ratio from 40 to 60, that's an additional 40 million people, it costs a lot to actually create campus-based learning for all these people. For each person, it typically costs ₹10 lakh to create one extra seat in a physical campus. So, it has to happen online. And not all of these people even need to do degrees at the beginning of their career. They may want to learn something, do a job, and they may pursue some other time. Everybody is going to be a lifelong learner. There is no way you can do that in a physical setting, you have to do it online.

There are many edtech companies currently in India and are offering various online courses. How are you looking at this competition?

Our view on this has always been long-term. We have never raised funding, and we will never do that. We've always been bootstrapped and the reason is because we don't want to put educational objectives subservient to investor objectives. For us, learning is the superhero always. Everything is in service of learning, and we never want to compromise, and that's how we always function. Offline is expensive. We have offline centres (5 or 6) in metros. We have 12 million learners. While the physical centres took us to a few thousand students, online mentored learning took us to a few lakhs. With AI, I'm hoping it will take us to many millions.

At that time, it was the right decision (Byju's acquisition) for us. Since we were never integrated, it did not affect us in any way. I don't regret the transaction.

When you look back now - Byju's downfall- do you regret being acquired by the company?

We are not part of Byju's anymore, but their lenders are very much our shareholders. Shareholding moved from one place to another, but that doesn't change anything for us. I've been running the company- the whole time, so nothing has changed for us, and we will continue to do that. I think at that time, it was the right decision (acquisition) for us. Also, that was the time when there was a lot of money sloshing around. All our competitors had raised a lot of money, I didn't want to raise money from investors. Yes, it was a distraction, but because we were never integrated, it did not affect us in any way. I don't regret the transaction and that was actually a good thing that happened to us. We're very glad and relieved that we are not impacted by that and are out now.

You have launched AI Mentor and AI Teacher. How will these innovations transform the overall digital learning experience?

We are introducing about six or seven new courses, but that's just the beginning. There will be more, and these are relatively short-courses that one can do in a month. Eventually, we are hoping to get some kind of recognition from the government for AI teacher-enabled courses. Today, the government doesn't recognise that. Currently, if you want to do any degree program, it costs lakhs. We want to offer the same at a low cost.

MONEY-WISE

IT IS IMPORTANT TO DO FIN CHECK-UP

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

WE all do a health check-up annually, or at least once in 2-3 years. This is just to see the parameters -and decide whether we need to take some corrective action. We give a small quantity of blood and many parameters are checked. We know that it helps us to take some corrective action to improve our health.

Similarly, we can check our finances – let's call it a 'Financial check-up'. Having a financial check-up is crucial for several reasons:

- **Assessing financial health:** Just like regular health check-ups, a financial check-up helps you understand your current financial status, including your assets, liabilities, income, and expenses. This assessment can reveal how well you're managing your finances.
- **Goal setting and planning:**
- **Short-term goals:** You might plan for immediate needs like saving for a vacation or paying off credit card debt.
- **Long-term goals:** This could involve retirement planning, buying a home, or funding education.
- **Budget review:** It allows you to review and adjust your budget. Maybe you've taken on new expenses or your income has changed, and your budget needs recalibrating to ensure you're living within your means.
- **Investment review:**
- **Performance Check:** Are your investments performing as expected?
- **Risk Assessment:** Is your portfolio's risk level still appropriate for your current life stage or financial goals?
- **Diversification:** Ensuring your investments are spread out enough to mitigate risks.
- **Debt management:** Understanding how much debt you have, the interest rates you're paying, and strategizing on how to pay it down more effectively.
- **Emergency preparedness:** Checking if your emergency fund is adequate. Financial advisors often recommend having 3-6 months' worth of living expenses saved.
- **Insurance coverage:** Ensuring you have adequate insurance to protect against unforeseen events.
- **Tax optimisation:** A review might help identify opportunities for tax savings or adjustments in your withholdings or contributions to tax-advantaged accounts.
- **Credit health:** Reviewing your credit report and score to ensure there are no surprises or errors.
- **Behavioural adjustments:** Sometimes, a financial check-up can highlight behavioural patterns, like overspending or not saving enough, allowing you to make conscious changes.
- **Retirement planning:** Especially important as one ages, to ensure you're on track for the retirement lifestyle you envision.
- **Adaptation to life changes:** Life events like marriage, divorce, birth of children, or career changes can significantly impact your financial plan, necessitating a review.

By regularly reviewing your financial situation, you can make informed decisions, adjust to life's changes, and work towards financial security and independence.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY NPS CAN BE YOUR ONLY RETIREMENT PLAN

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

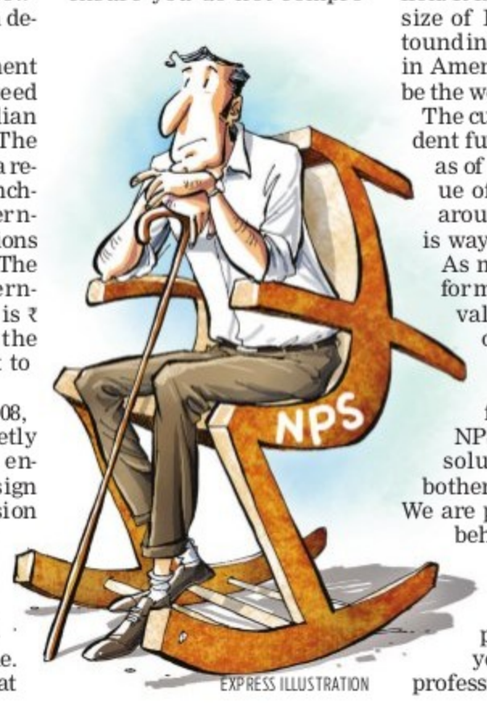
RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THE benefits of the National Pension Scheme (NPS) significantly far outweigh the effort needed to learn and understand about investing. For years, you have put aside money for your retirement through employee provident funds, public provident funds, other government guarantee schemes or fixed deposits. These days, many of you now do it through systematic investment plans of mutual funds or unit-linked insurance plans offered by insurers. The increased use of these products has a lot to do with understanding what you get at the end of the term of your investment.

Pension schemes across many countries in Europe are based on government guarantees. They are said to be ticking time bombs as those economies age rapidly. In India, 32.7 crore people are enrolled in employee provident fund (EPF) accounts. That is about 25% of the population. However, a provident fund is a defined benefit scheme.

It burdens the government as the return is guaranteed based on the 10-year Indian government bond yield. The government always gives a return higher than that benchmark. Overall, the government contribution to pensions is around ₹ 2,76,000 crore. The overall interest the government pays on borrowing is ₹ 12,76,000 crore. Ideally, the government would want to cut such a high bill.

Since its inception in 2008, the government has quietly started a revolution. It is encouraging employees to sign up for the National Pension Scheme. It is a defined contribution scheme where you allocate the money you put in, and your employer puts it according to your risk profile. The maximum amount that you can allocate to equity assets is 75%. You can choose a smaller percentage of equity allocation if you are risk-averse. The average annual return on NPS with maximum equity allocation was 11%-12%. That is good enough to cover inflation and create retirement wealth. If you invested ₹25,000 at age 25 at an 11% average return up to 50, your retirement corpus would be just under ₹4 crore. As your income rises, you can allocate more money to NPS to ensure you do not compromise your lifestyle. If you think equity allocation is too risky, you can choose fixed income allocation to generate a steady return of just under 10%. That is relatively less risky.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

The more you contribute to NPS, the more you help the government reduce the interest burden. That frees up money for capital expenditure. The recent budget also encourages you to kickstart a pension plan for your child through NPS Vatsalya. The tax deductions are available under the new tax regime, too.

If you have a friend in the United States, you may have often heard about 401 (k) plans contributing to retirement. The NPA plan is essentially structured on those lines. In America, households have benefitted immensely. Since 1978, around 7.8 crore or a fourth of Americans hold such an account. The value of assets in these accounts is estimated to be close to $9 trillion. It is more than twice the size of India's GDP. The astounding household wealth in America allows people to be the world's consumers.

The current value of provident funds is ₹24 lakh crore as of March 2024. The value of the NPS corpus is around ₹ 13 lakh crore. It is way below the potential. As more people get into formal employment, the value of the corpus will only rise.

If you are not keen to dive deeper into financial learning, NPS is your retirement solution. You must not bother about anything else. We are perhaps two decades behind the United States in terms of growth in pension assets. Invest as much as possible based on your risk profile and professional advice.

Govt achieves 90% target of first asset monetisation plan

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

AS the government launches its second asset monetisation plan, sources indicate that it has already achieved 90% of the target set under the first plan by monetising assets belonging to the government and public sector units (PSUs).

The first asset monetisation initiative, known as the National Monetization Pipeline (NMP), aimed to generate ₹6 lakh crore from core central government assets over four years, from FY22 to FY25. In Budget 2025, the finance minister announced the second asset monetisation plan for 2025-30, targeting ₹10 lakh crore in new investments. However, finance ministry sources emphasise that the objective is not to outright sell government assets to raise funds. "The intent is to recycle assets. If an asset generates a cash stream, monetising it upfront allows us to reinvest the funds in building new infrastructure," explained a government source.

One approach under the new plan involves private sector participation, where private players develop land or other assets and generate revenue on a revenue-sharing basis. "This way, the government doesn't have to invest directly. Instead, a private player builds the infrastructure, and we grant a concession," the source added. The government and PSUs are adopting different models for asset monetisation, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), Toll-Operate-Transfer (ToT) models and Securitisation.

However, the government has clarified that the proceeds from PSU asset monetisation will not appear in the government's books, as these funds remain within the respective public sector entities.

VA Tech WABAG bags ₹3,251-crore Saudi order

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

VA Tech WABAG has bagged a consortium order worth $371 million (about ₹3,251 crore) from Al Haer Environmental Services Company at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The company said in a statement that the order is for engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) of a 200 MLD Independent Sewage Treatment Plant (ISTP), including connections to outfall delivery facilities. This ISTP is being developed by a consortium of Miahona Company (lead), Marafiq, and N.V. Besix S.A. for its off-taker, the Saudi Water Partnership Company (SWPC), it said, adding that SWPC is the principal off-taker for water and wastewater projects in Saudi Arabia.

'Government looking at procedural easing to further promote FDI'

PTI @ New Delhi

THE government is looking at further easing of procedures in certain sectors to attract more foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country, a government official said.

The department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has held stakeholder consultations with different government departments, regulators, industry associations, advisory and law firms, pension funds, private equity and venture capitals.

The department sought their views on ways to further attract foreign direct investments into the country. "We have completed the consultations. The department has received suggestions on different issues. Things have not yet been finalised...Looking at easing of norms at the procedural front," the official said. However, the official did not disclose the sectors where the government is considering the procedural easing. In the consultations, issues which were raised included permitting e-commerce players to receive FDI in inventory-based models of online trade

for export purposes only; easing press note 3 by defining beneficial ownership; and some tweaking of the policy for single-brand retail trading. Under this press note, government approval is mandatory for investors from countries sharing land borders with India in any sector. Foreign direct investment inflows into India have crossed the $1 trillion milestone in the April 2000-September 2024 period.

The key sectors attracting the maximum of these inflows include the services segment, computer software and hardware, telecommunications, trading, construction development, automobile, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals. The investment in India rose by 45% cent y-o-y to $ 29.79 billion in April-September this fiscal.

Sindhu pulls out of BAMTC due to injury issues

Two-time Olympic medallist shuttler PV Sindhu has pulled out of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships in China due to a hamstring issue. The tournament is set to be played in Qingdao from February 11-16 with the Indian shuttlers currently undergoing training at a camp in Guwahati.

ROHIT LIGHTS UP THE DARK

In a match which was briefly disrupted due to floodlight malfunction in Cuttack, India captain hits ton to power hosts

GOMESH S @ Cuttack

SHREYAS Iyer raised his arms aloft as India captain Rohit Sharma walked towards his batting partner at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack on Sunday. As the ball (off England spinner Adil Rashid) he had smacked hit the long-off stands, Sharma hugged Iyer before raising his bat – for his 32nd ODI century – to acknowledge a loud, sellout crowd for the second ODI.

There was no ecstatic jump or punch in the air or an emotional roar. He did not even remove his helmet as is considered a custom after scoring a hundred. Sharma walked around a bit raising his bat, thanked the heavens before moving towards the square leg umpire. He stood there for a minute. He had been yearning for runs all these days.

It was not easy, especially when those aging limbs don't move as desired. For Sharma this is more than just a century. It was cathartic. It was an answer, though for the moment, to all the vilification and criticism that he had been bombarded with since last year, starting with the New Zealand Test series. Poor form had been dogging him and results as a captain dried up too. Days before the ICC Champions Trophy this was a big relief for the India skipper and the team.

After getting out cheaply in Nagpur, Sharma came to Cuttack under immense pressure. Although he had played it down in the lead-up to the ODI series saying that this is a different format, Sharma hadn't been his usual self. His poor form and results across formats and what transpired in the Australian Summer had been affecting him. That he looked like a shadow of himself with the bat in hand — tentative, low on confidence, often double-minded — only added to the concerns.

In fact, he started in a very similar fashion on Sunday as well. He started with a tentative defence, a play-and-miss off Saqib Mahmood, desperately looking for that one boundary to get himself going. And it came off a thick outside edge in the next over against Gus Atkinson. If that gave a breather, the flick on the very next ball which flew over the mid-wicket would have given him some assurance. He found joy and confidence when Sharma sent Mahmood over cover with ease. With the widest smile he has had in recent times, Sharma glove-punched Shubman Gill.

A loft down the ground, and a glance of the pads followed as Sharma knew he had started getting in line, the hands and bat were moving in a way that hadn't for a while. Which is why, he was not amused when the floodlights stopped the play for about 35 minutes, putting a pause on his flow.

When he came back. Sharma almost got out as he was hit on the pads by Mark Wood. But umpire's call saved the India captain as he immediately launched the pacer down the ground. From thereon, there was no looking back. Sharma was well and truly back in a format that brings out the best in him. He swept Rashid with ease, cut him to the ropes to bring up the fifty in just 30 balls. With the target within reach, Sharma was in no hurry. He continued to toy with Rashid first, and then Wood. It was almost as if the clock had turned back to the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup.

Unlike the past few months, his hands were getting in line with the way his body was moving, he was seeing the ball well and timed it to perfection. That he was happy to defend with confidence when needed sums it up. The century came in 76 deliveries but this knock was more than just about ticking that 32nd ODI ton. Sunday was about showing the world that he has still got it, that he can still take on bowlers and hit sixes a will — he went past Chris Gayle to become the second-highest six-hitter in ODIs – while holding his own in defence. And this knock – despite its share of luck – would have done a world of good to his confidence.

"Important game, series on the line. Broke it down to pieces about how I wanted to bat. It's longer than T20 cricket, but shorter than Tests. Needed to assess and break the innings down to pieces. It was important for batters who are set to bat as deep as possible. They were bowling into the body, trying not to give any room. That's where I prepared my game and tried to access the gaps," Sharma said at the post match presentation.

As he walked back to a standing ovation, Sharma had done his job — 119 from 90 balls — leaving the rest to the middle-order batters.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Rohit Sharma plays a shot during the second ODI | AP

Important game, series on the line. Broke it down to pieces about how I wanted to bat. Needed to assess and break the innings down to pieces.

Rohit Sharma, India captain

Brief scores

England 304 in 49.5 ovs (Duckett 65, Root 69; Jadeja 3/35) **lost to** India 308/6 in 44.3 ovs (Sharma 119, Gill 60; Overton 2/27)

Much-awaited ODI debut for Varun before CT

GOMESH S @ Cuttack

JUST as the Indian team got together for a huddle before the toss at the Barabati Stadium on Sunday afternoon, Raghu Raghavendra, the team's throwdown specialist, dropped everything and ran towards them from the other end of the pitch where he was standing. As head coach Gautam Gambhir had started talking, Raghu snuck a cap in from the side to Hardik Pandya who passed it on to Ravindra Jadeja.

Is there a debut… will Varun Chakravarthy finally get a game… questions lingered while Gambhir confirmed the same — in a video that was later shared by the BCCI – asking Jadeja to hand over the cap to Varun. Right from the time of Vijay Hazare knockouts, Varun has been the one name that has constantly come up in discussions. Although he was initially not included in the ODI squad, Varun was later added with the team management wanting to see if he could replicate the T20I performance in the 50-over format. And here he was, at 33 years and 164 days, the second-oldest ODI debut for India after Farokh Engineer (36 years and 138 days). Varun Chakravarthy, ODI cap no. 259.

The architect-turned mystery spinner, who rose from tennis ball cricket to Tamil Nadu Premier League to the Indian Premier League to the Indian team, is taking the field in a format where he has thrived at the domestic level over the past couple of years. It is not just a case of IPL and T20I performances being rewarded and India looking to make the most of a player's ability. In the last few years, Varun has also proven himself in the 50-over domestic tournament. He was the second leading wicket-taker in 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons and with 37 wickets cumulatively, he is the number one spinner in Vijay Hazare in this period.

While he did not play in Nagpur, India captain Rohit Sharma had confirmed that the spinner is in the scheme of things for the Champions Trophy that is set to be played in Pakistan and Dubai from February 19. "Right now we are not thinking about whether we are going to take him or not but definitely he will be in contention. If things plan out really well for us and he does what is required then definitely there is something that we need to think about," Sharma had said ahead of the first ODI.

And the day came in Cuttack as Varun was introduced as early as the ninth over. Having been bamboozled by him through the T20I series, England openers did not want to take him on up front. They were happy to pick up singles and when Phil Salt did try to go after Varun, he ended up top-edging a full delivery handing the spinner his first ODI wickets. From thereon, the spinner continued to keep one end tight, bowling stump to stump in mid 90KPHs. It was only when Harry Brook hit him down the ground for a six — in Varun's sixth over on the trot — he conceded a boundary. His first spell read 6-0-26-1 before Sharma brought back the other two spinners in the XI — Jadeja and Axar Patel. As they continued to ensure things did not get out of hand, Varun was largely fielding in fine-leg and third-man region. When he came back, Varun almost trapped Joe Root, but the England batter had gotten some glove on it. Root was the only other batter to pick up boundaries off Varun as the rest just tried to rotate him. Long before the innings was over, Varun had completed his ten overs with the figures of 54/1.

While one match is not a perfect parameter to judge any player, in Varun's case, it was more about how he got through the ten-over spell and spent time on the field. Although it seemed like England were comfortable rotating strike, Varun had a debut to remember on what was a good pitch to bat on.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Nabi's five-for put J&K on top against Kerala

ENS/AGENCIES @ Chennai

SEAMER Auqib Nabi complemented his useful contribution with the bat with an excellent five-wicket haul to put Jammu and Kashmir in the driver's seat against Kerala on the second day of their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal here on Sunday. Responding to J&K's first innings total of 280 all out, Kerala were struggling at 200 for nine at stumps, trailing by a good 80 runs with just one wicket in hand. J&K, who resumed the day on overnight 228 for eight, did well to add another 52 runs to their total thanks to Nabi's useful 30-ball 32 and Umar Nazir Mir's 14 not out. Four of Nabi's victims were recognised batters in the Kerala top and middle order, making his effort very special. The 28-year-old Nabi ended the day with fine figures of 5/36 from 19 overs, his eighth five-wicket haul in first-class cricket. The seasoned Jalaj Saxena top-scored for Kerala with a 67-run knock off 78 balls, while Salman Nizar was unbeaten on 49 when the stumps were drawn for the day.

Ankit scores ton for Haryana

Skipper Ankit Kumar led from the front with a fantastic century as Haryana enjoyed the upper hand against defending champions Mumbai, reaching 263 for five at stumps on the second day of their quarterfinal in Kolkata.

TN in trouble

Pacer Aditya Thakare's four-wicket burst had Tamil Nadu hanging on the ropes at 159 for six after the second day of their quarterfinal in Nagpur.

Gujarat in control

Manan Hingrajia and Jaymeet Patel, the orthodox yet effective pair of southpaws, added 134 runs for the fourth wicket to put Gujarat in complete command against Saurashtra at stumps in their quarterfinal in Rajkot. Gujarat ended the second day's play at 260 for 4 and are currently 44 runs ahead.

Haryana batter Ankit Kumar celebrates his ton against Mumbai on Day 2 | PTI

BRIEF SCORES: J&K 280 in 95.1 ovs (Kanhaiya Wadhawan 48, Lone Nasir 44; MD Nidheesh 6/75) vs Kerala 200/9 in 63 ovs (Jalaj Saxena 67, Salman Nizar batting 49; Auqib Nabi 5/36). Mumbai 315 in 88.2 ovs (Tanush Kotian 97, Shams Mulani 91; Anhsul Kamboj 3/71, Sumit Kumar 3/81) vs Haryana 263/5 in 72 ovs (Ankit Kumar 136; Shams Mulani 2/59, Tanush Kotian 2/57). Vidarbha 353 in 121.1 ovs (Karun Nair 122, Harsh Dubey 69, Danish Malewar 79; Sonu Yadav 3/91, Vijay Shankar 3/75) vs Tamil Nadu 159/6 in 46 ovs (C Andre Siddharth 65; Aditya Thakare 4/18). Saurashtra 216 in 72.1 ovs vs Gujarat 260/4 in 95 ovs (Manan Hingrajia 83, Jaymeet Patel 88 batting; Chirag Jani 2/25).

Jacquet captures Chennai Open title

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

FRENCHMAN Kyrian Jacquet put his experience to good use to beat Sweden's Elias Ymer 7-6 (1), 6-4 in the men's singles final of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger held at the SDAT Tennis Stadium, Nungambalkkam on Sunday. Jacquet, ranked No 273 in the world, got off to a good start by breaking Ymer in the very first game of the match and then consolidated his break of his serve. However, Ymer, ranked No 332 in the world, broke his opponent in the eighth game to go level in the first set at 4-4. With both players holding their next two service games with ease, the set headed into a tie-breaker, which Jacquet won easily 7-1.

The Frenchman again broke early in the second set to build a 4-1 lead only to see Ymer fight back to level the set at 4-4. Jacquet was able to then hold his serve and break the Swede in the 10th game to complete the win in one hour and 37 minutes. This was the second title for Jacquet on the ATP Challenger Tour, while Ymer, a six-time champion on the ATP Challenger Tour, will have to wait for some more time to win his first title on the tour since Pune in November 2018.

"Yeah, I would like to dedicate this title to my grandfather who passed away in December. So it was tough moments and I know he is proud of me now," said Jacquet. He also played a lot of slices in the match to destabilize his opponent. "Yeah, I played a lot of slices during all the matches because I like to play slices to change the rhythm. I try to destabilize the opponent. So yeah, I did well today," added Jacquet. Jacquet earned 100 ATP rankings points and $22730 in prize money, while Ymer will take home 50 ATP rankings points and $13350. **Results:** Singles Final: Kyrian Jacquet (FRA) bt Elias Ymer (SWE) 7-6 (1), 6-4.

Kyrian Jacquet (France) beat Elias Ymer (Sweeden) in the final | ASHWIN PRASATH

Hurdlers Jyothi & Tejas raise Games bar with gold

AGENCIES @ Dehradun

ANDHRA Pradesh's Jyothi Yarraji and Tejas Shirse of Maharashtra on Sunday won their third successive gold medals at the National Games after clocking record times on the second day of athletics competitions here. Shirse (men's 100m hurdles) and Yarraji (women's 110m hurdles), both national record holders in their respective events, had won gold in 2022 and 2023 editions.

The 25-year-old Yarraji, the reigning Asian champion, clocked 13.10s to better her own National Games record of 13.22 seconds, set in the 2023. Her national record stands at 12.78 seconds, also set in 2023. Moumita Mondal of West Bengal claimed the silver with a time of 13.36 seconds while Nithya Ramraj (13.60 seconds) of Tamil Nadu took bronze.

The 22-year-old Shirse clocked 13.65 seconds to better his earlier Games record of 13.71 seconds which he had set in the 2023 edition. He had clocked 13.84 seconds while winning the gold in the 2022 edition. His national record stands at 13.41 seconds which he had set last year.

Shirse and Yarraji have been competing in 60m hurdles in the indoor circuit abroad since last month. Both hold 60m hurdles national records. Manav Rajanarayanan of Tamil Nadu won silver with a time of 14.03 seconds while Muhammed Lazan (14.23 seconds) of Kerala took bronze. Out of the 10 gold medals on offer on the day, Maharashtra and Odisha won two each, while AP, TN, Kerala, Haryana, West Bengal and Karnataka pocketed one each.

Tejas Shirse (C), Manav Rajanarayan (L) & Md Lazan at the award ceremony | PTI

Men's High Jump: Gold: Aadarsh Ram (Tamil Nadu) - 2.14m; Silver: Swadhin Kumar (Odisha) - 2.11m; Bronze: Sudeep (Karnataka) - 2.08m. **Men's Decathlon:** Gold: N Thowfeeq (Kerala) - 6915 points; Silver: Yaman Deep Sharma (Rajasthan) - 6831 points; Bronze: Rohit Roman (Andhra Pradesh) - 6753 points. Women's javelin throw: Gold: Jyoti Rakesh (Haryana) - 55.55m; Silver: Karishma Sanil (Karnataka) - 55.55m; Bronze: Ramyashree Jain (Karnataka) - 54.85m. **Women's long jump:** Gold: Moumita Mondal (West Bengal) - 6.21m; Silver: Sandra Babu (Kerala) - 6.12m; Bronze: Deepanshi Singh (Uttar Pradesh) - 6.11m. **Women's 4x100m relay:** Gold: Karnataka (45.99s); Silver: Kerala (47.04s); Bronze: Telangana (47.58s).

OTHER RESULTS

EXPRESS READ

1st Test series win for Oz in Lanka in 14 years

GALLE: Australia wrapped up a comprehensive 2-0 series victory over Sri Lanka, sealing the second Test with an easy nine-wicket win in Galle on Sunday. It's Australia's first Test series win on Sri Lankan soil since 2011. Their last success here came under Ricky Ponting's captaincy, a 1-0 win.

Bosch replaces Nortje in SA's CT squad

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa on Sunday named relatively newcomer Corbin Bosch as a replacement for injured fast bowler Anrich Nortje for the Champions Trophy later this month. Nortje was ruled out of the ICC event with a recurring back injury last month.

Freestyle Chess: Gukesh plays Caruana

HAMBURG: World champion D Gukesh will take on Fabiano Caruana of the US in the two-game quarterfinal after the latter picked the Indian in a unique format typical of Freestyle Chess Grand Slam. Gukesh finished eighth among 10 participants.

UP Warriorz name Deepti as captain

NEW DELHI: UP Warriorz named Deepti Sharma as their captain for WPL 2025 after regular skipper Alyssa Healy was ruled out because of a foot injury. Deepti has previous experience in captaincy as well, leading Bengal and East Zone in domestic matches.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Liverpool, Chelsea crash out of FA Cup

AGENCIES @ London

LIVERPOOL'S quest for a quadruple came to a crashing halt on Sunday as they were dumped out of the FA Cup 1-0 by Championship strugglers Plymouth.

Ryan Hardie scored the only goal from the penalty spot as Arne Slot was made to pay for resting his star names as he suffered just a fourth defeat in 38 games as Liverpool boss.

Plymouth sit rock bottom of the English second tier, but have now taken two Premier League scalps on their way into round five after winning at Brentford in round three.

Slot made 10 changes from the side that thrashed Tottenham 4-0 on Thursday to reach the League Cup final.

Meanwhile, Brighton's Kaoru Mitoma sent Chelsea crashing out of the Cup as the Japan star sealed a 2-1 win late on Saturday. Chelsea haven't won a domestic trophy since lifting the FA Cup in 2018 and their wait will go on for another season after they blew the lead at the Amex Stadium. Enzo Maresca's side were gifted the lead in the fifth minute when Brighton keeper Bart Verbruggen fumbled Cole Palmer's cross into his own net.It was a horrendous mistake but Chelsea failed to press home their advantage.

Madrid derby

MADRID: Kylian Mbappe secured Real Madrid a 1-1 draw against rivals Atletico Madrid which kept Los Blancos top of La Liga on Saturday. Julian Alvarez dinked home a controversial first half penalty for Atletico but Mbappe was in the right place at the right time to bundle home early in the second half on his first appearance in the tense derby clash.

Plymouth's Ryan Hardie (L) scores against Liverpool on Sunday | AP

Bengaluru FC win 3-0, move to fourth spot

AGENCIES @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU FC defeated Jamshedpur FC by 3-0 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in the Indian Super League on Sunday. The Blues broke their three-game-long winless streak at home to move to the fourth spot in the standings. Bengaluru now have 31 points to their name from 20 matches.

Albino Gomes was the star of the show in the opening 15 minutes, pulling off two exceptional saves to keep his team from getting off to a jittery start. He also became the goalkeeper to save the most penalties in the ISL (7) after denying Sunil Chhetri from the spot in the 12th minute. However, the night belonged to Alberto Noguera, who scored a second-half double to help Bengaluru return with maximum points.

Jamshedpur remained third with 34 points from 19 games.

BFC players celebrate a goal against JFC in Bengaluru on Sunday | ISL

With GATE around the corner, every moment of prep counts. But last-minute studying doesn't have to mean last-minute stress. This page is your go-to for quick strategies, must-know facts, and a dose of motivation to keep you going. You've put in the work, so you just have to walk through that GATE with confidence. Also, excuse all the GATE puns. We couldn't help ourselves...

THE GATEWAY TO SMART PREP

TICK, TYPE, OR TRAP?

NOT ALL QUESTIONS ARE CREATED EQUAL. SPOT THE TRICKY ONES BEFORE THEY TRAP YOU!

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

√ One correct answer, three incorrect options

√ Negative marking applies

Sample Question:

"Which of the following is true about X?"

(A) Statement 1

(B) Statement 2

(C) Statement 3

(D) None of the above

Tricky Phrases to Watch For:

- **"Always" / "Never"** → Often a red flag
- **"Most appropriate"** → Some answers may be partially correct
- **"Which of these is NOT true?"** → Watch for reversed logic

Strategy:

- Eliminate obviously wrong answers first to increase your chances.

Marking Scheme:

- **1-mark MCQs** → Wrong answer = -1/3
- **2-mark MCQs** → Wrong answer = -2/3

Multiple Select Questions (MSQs)

√ More than one correct answer

√ No negative marking—but no partial credit either!

Sample Question:

"Which of the following are valid conditions for Y?"

☑ Option 1; ☑ Option 2; ☑ Option 3; ☑ Option 4

Tricky Phrases to Watch For:

- **"Select all correct answers"** → You must get ALL right, or you score 0
- **Options that seem 'partially correct'** → Verify each one carefully

Strategy:

- If you're sure about at least two options, it's worth attempting.

Marking Scheme:

- No negative marking, **but you must select all correct answers to get marks.**

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATIONS

the plan

Quick Exam Hacks

Highlight keywords (eg, "most correct," "least likely")

For MCQs, don't guess blindly — negative marking applies!

For MSQs, double-check every option—partial marks aren't given.

For NATs, check decimal places and units before finalising your answer.

Numerical Answer Type (NAT)

√ Type your answer instead of selecting from options; √ No negative marking

Sample Question:

"Calculate the force (in N) acting on an object given X and Y parameters."

Answer: _____

Tricky Phrases to Watch For:

- **Unit-specific answers** → If the question asks for kilo-ohms and you write ohms, you lose marks!
- **Round-off errors** → Some questions specify decimal precision

Strategy:

- Always double-check decimal places and units before submitting.

Marking Scheme:

- No negative marking—**attempt even if unsure!**

FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

CRUNCH THE NUMBERS, NOT YOUR BRAIN!

Engineering Mathematics

- **Quadratic Equation Discriminant**

√ **Formula:** △ = b^2 - 4ac

√ **Mnemonic:** "Big Square Before 4 Apples Crushed."

Try picturing four apples on the ground, with a square-shaped concrete slab about to fall on them!

- **Divergence Theorem**

√ **Formula:** ∫∫∫ ▽. F dV = ∫∫F·dS

√ **Mnemonic:** "Volume to Surface: Divergence Flows Out."

Try picturing a sealed box full of air, then imagine tiny arrows pushing outward from inside, bursting through the surface — flow escaping from volume to surface!

Thermodynamics (Mechanical, Chemical, Aerospace, etc)

- **Heat Transfer Formula**

√ **Formula:** Q = mc△T

√ **Mnemonic:** "Q = McDonald's Temperature Change!"

Picture a box of McDonald's fries getting hotter as flames rise around them, with Q (heat) hovering above, fries as mass (m), and flames as temperature change (△T).

- **Ideal Gas Law**

√ **Formula:** PV = nRT

√ **Mnemonic:** "Pretty Vacuums Need Real Thermo."

Picture a balloon expanding and shrinking, with a pressure gauge & thermometer around it to depict the variables.

Electrical Circuits (Electrical, Electronics, Instrumentation, etc)

- **Ohm's Law**

√ **Formula:** V = IR

√ **Mnemonic:** "Voltage Is Really Important!"

Picture water flowing through pipes. Wide pipes let water rush through (low resistance), but squeeze the pipe smaller, and flow slows down (high resistance). Voltage is like the water pressure pushing it forward!

- **Impedance Formula**

√ **Formula:** Z = R + jX

√ **Mnemonic:** "Zebras Run Jumping Xcitedly!"

Imagine an electrical circuit with a resistor (R) and an inductor (X) working together! Resistance slows the current down, and reactance twists the energy flow slightly, making total impedance (Z) a mix of both.

Structural Mechanics / Civil Engineering

- **Stress Formula**

√ **Formula:** σ = P/A

√ **Mnemonic:** "Sigma is Pressure Applied!"

Picture an elephant standing on a concrete column. The more weight (P) on top, the more stress (σ) the column feels! If the column were twice as wide (A), the stress would be spread out and lower.

- **Euler's Buckling Load**

√ **Formula:** $P_{cr} = (\pi^2 EI) / L^2$

√ **Mnemonic:** "Euler's PIE-squares are Elastic but Long!"

Picture a wobbly tower made of square-shaped pies (π^2) stacked on top of each other! The more pies ($\pi^2 EI$), the stronger it stands. But if it's too long (L^2), it collapses!

Control Systems (ECE, Instrumentation, Mechanical, etc)

- **Transfer Function**

√ **Formula:** T(s) = C(s)/R(s) = G(s)/(1+G(s)H(s))

√ **Mnemonic:** "Good Systems Have 1 Extra Handle."

Picture a golden computer (G for Good) with one solid base (1) and an extra handle (H) sticking out of the side.

TIPS!

- Highlight key formulas in different colours while revising
- Use funny mnemonics to make things stick
- Understand applications rather than just memorising formulas

FROM THEORIES TO TITANS...

FROM RECORD-BREAKING STRUCTURES TO CUTTING-EDGE SCIENCE, EVERY INNOVATION BEGINS WITH THE SAME PRINCIPLES YOU'RE MASTERING NOW. THESE ENGINEERING WONDERS PROVE THAT KNOWLEDGE, WHEN APPLIED, RESHAPES THE WORLD

WHAT YOU'RE STUDYING BUILDS THE WORLD!

1

Burj Khalifa (Dubai, UAE) — The Tallest Skyscraper

Designed to withstand wind loads, thermal expansion, and extreme structural stress, this tower is a marvel of civil engineering and materials science.

828 meters of architectural mastery.

2

Channel Tunnel (UK-France) — The World's Longest Underwater Tunnel

Built using tunnel boring machines and geotechnical engineering, the project overcame extreme water pressure and unstable rock formations.

Linking two countries beneath the waves **50 km under the sea**

3

Chenab Bridge (India) — The World's Highest Railway Bridge

A test of structural load distribution and materials strength, this engineering feat had to withstand high winds and seismic forces.

A steel arch rising **359 meters** above a raging river!

4

ITER (France) — The World's Largest Fusion Reactor Experiment

Applying thermodynamics, plasma physics, and superconducting magnet technology, ITER is pushing the boundaries of energy generation.

A star on Earth: engineering the future of clean energy...

5

Three Gorges Dam (China) — The Largest Hydropower Project

A triumph of fluid mechanics and hydropower generation, this dam controls flooding while producing massive renewable energy.

22,500 MW of power — harnessing a river's fury for electricity!

6

The Large Hadron Collider (Switzerland) — The World's Biggest Particle Accelerator

Built using electromagnetism, superconductors, and advanced control systems, this collider unravels the fundamental mysteries of physics.

A **27 km** ring that smashes protons at near-light speed.

GATE, set, go!

The finish line is near so don't slow down now! Your next right answer starts with the right mindset...

OVERWHELMED?

One question at a time. One mark at a time. That's how toppers are made.

Your syllabus is huge, but your focus is bigger.

The hardest concepts become the easiest when you refuse to give up.

EXHAUSTED?

You've survived 100% of your worst study days. Keep going.

Fatigue is temporary. Regret lasts longer.

Today's 2 hours of study will be tomorrow's easy 2-mark question.

UNDERCONFIDENT?

You know more than you think. Your brain remembers everything — trust it!

If you can solve it at home, you can solve it in the exam hall.

Your future self is already thanking you for today's effort.

ANXIOUS?

GATE is just a test. Your potential is bigger than one score.

No exam can define your intelligence. But it can showcase your hard work.

Summarise in one page

- Write down key concepts in one cheat sheet. If it doesn't fit, you're overcomplicating it.

Flashcards beat rereading

- Instead of passively reading, quiz yourself using flashcards. Active recall boosts memory.

Revise in 25-minutes blocks

- Use the Pomodoro Technique (25 minutes study, 5 minutes break) to stay fresh and focused.

Target weak areas first

- Start with topics where you lose marks. This is not the time for your strongest subjects.

Formula recall challenge

- Write out core formulas from memory. Check for gaps, then fill them in.

Solve a one-hour mixed question set

- Simulate exam conditions by solving a random mix of problems. No looking at notes!

Do's	Don'ts
Prioritise sleep A rested brain remembers better than a tired one cramming at 3 am!	**Overload on new topics** Focus on reinforcement, not entirely new concepts. You probably won't master them overnight.
Stick to familiar study methods Now is not the time to try new techniques. Trust what has worked for you before.	**Time-waste on perfection** If you're stuck on one hard problem for too long, move on. Your time is precious.
Stay active A short walk refreshes your mind and prevents mental fatigue.	**Panic over a bad mock test** A bad score today does not define your actual GATE performance. Learn from mistakes instead.

— Compiled by Nikhil Abhishek

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10.02.2025
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Peace treaty signed

In 1947, the Paris Peace Treaties was signed by Italy, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Finland and the Allies of World War II, ending hostilities

THE TREATIES

The treaties included territorial adjustments, war reparations, disarmament clauses, and the handover of war criminals to the Allies

PEACE AND STABILITY

The treaties aimed to redraw the boundaries of Europe and adjust the territories of the defeated countries to establish peace and stability in the region

CONTROVERSIAL DEALS

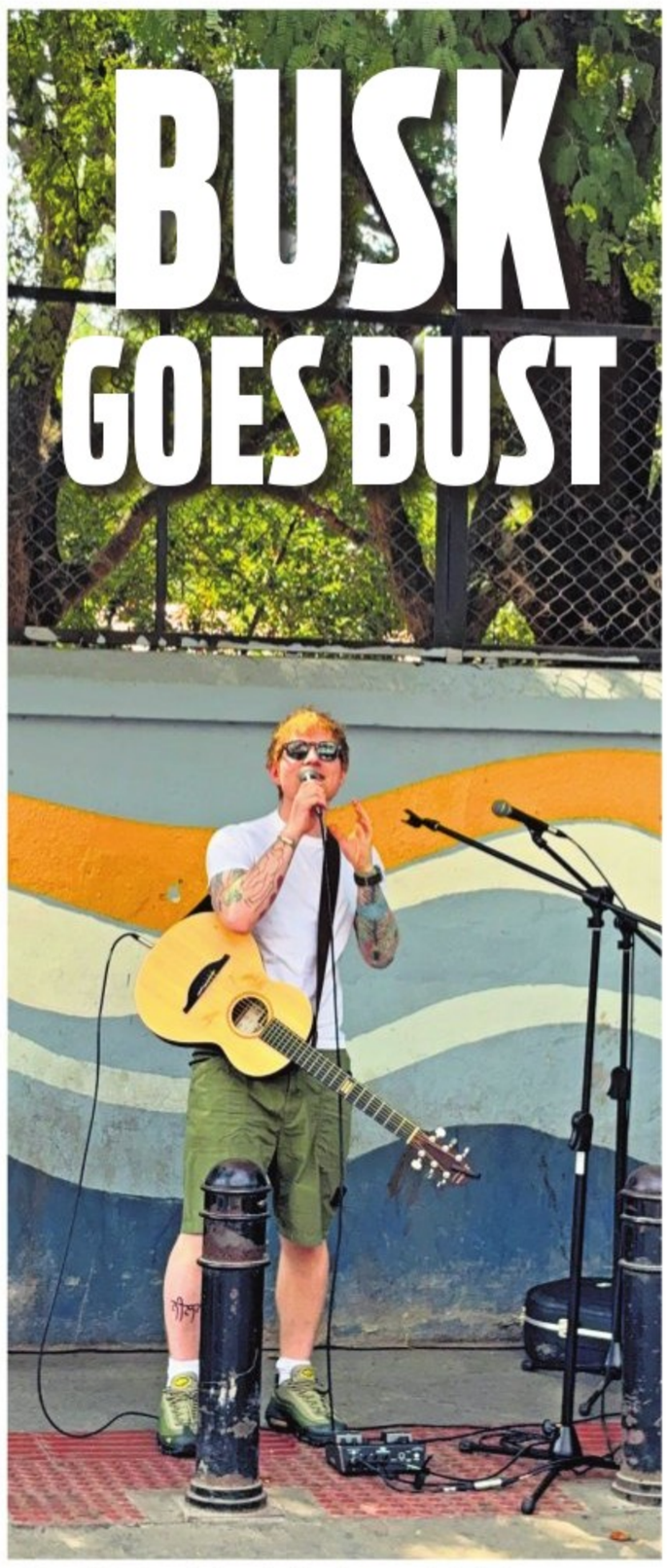
The territorial adjustments made by the treaties were debatable. They led to forced migration and displacement of ethnic minorities

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

A controversy erupted on Sunday morning when musician Ed Sheeran surprised B'lureans with an impromptu performance, only to be stopped by authorities

BUSK GOES BUST



We had permission to busk btw, hence us playing in that exact spot, was planned out before, it wasn't just us randomly turning up. All good though. See ya at the show tonight x (sic) – Ed Sheeran, musician

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

THE city was abuzz with energy and excitement this weekend with British singer Ed Sheeran performing two shows as a part of his Mathematics world tour. In the midst of this, the superstar decided to drop by Church Street on Sunday morning to give a surprise performance. However, just as the singer began to croon out the first few lines of *Shape of You*, a policeperson pulled the plug citing a lack of permission by the singer's team.

Recalling her excitement at a regular work day turn into a once-in-a-lifetime moment, Deha A, a 21-year-old cafeteria employee, says, "We had no idea Ed Sheeran would come even though we were watching people set up. In about 30 minutes, the whole street was crowded. It was my first time watching a live performance like this and my hands were shaking!"

Sheeran's performance being cut short has sparked a social media storm with some expressing disappointment at losing out on his live performance and others insisting that procedures must be followed. Prasith RV, a student, who has been a fan of Sheeran's since 2016, says the situation could have been dealt with more grace. "He's an international artiste who has come here to perform and when officials like this are rude, it brings down the reputation of Indians. There are better ways to communicate this – he could've politely gone up to the manager or PR team, or asked Ed to stop after a song. It was just disappointing to see my favourite artiste's performance being cut short."

Others, including Church Street Resident Welfare Association President, Sanjay Kumar Pal, are staunchly opposed to street performances, regardless of how big the star is. "As per the law, nobody is allowed to block the footpath. The organisers should have informed the police to get a proper location for the performance. The police did the right thing as footpaths are for pedestrians; it's not a stage for performance," says Pal, who mentions that they are forced to 'chase away' buskers on a daily basis. Shopkeeper Naveen Gowda takes a similar stance, citing crowd-control issues. "He started performing while his team was still talking with the police about permissions. It becomes a big issue if the crowd goes out of control or if someone files a complaint about traffic issues – the policemen have to report to higher-ups too," he says.

While busking, with musicians performing openly on the streets, is a common sight in many countries, it's still uncommon in India. Musician Carlton Braganza bemoans the lack of a busking culture in the city. "I know what a kick it is to have a go at audiences who may not know you. Abroad, you can find the best musicians on the street. Here, it's looked down upon. It's awesome that he did it."

'As Church Street is crowded, we had denied permission'

A police officer attached to the Cubbon Park police station said they got a call on 'Namma 112' about a performance on Church Street which was creating a nuisance. "Our men saw the crowd swelling on Church Street in no time. We had to intervene to manage the situation before things went out of hand," the officer said, adding, "We requested the singer to stop his performance. But he didn't heed our requests and continued. We had no option but to unplug the microphone and the musical instruments to stop his performance." According to the police, the event management company had approached the DCP Central office for permission to perform. "However, as Church Street is a crowded place, we had denied permission," the cop highlighted, adding, "Performances on streets are allowed only after obtaining necessary permissions. We do not allow them on busy footpaths as it inconveniences people."

A 'PERFECT' EVENING

Known for hits like *Shape of You*, *Perfect*, and *Beautiful People*, British pop sensation Ed Sheeran performs to a crowd of Bengaluru fans at NICE Grounds, Madavara, over the weekend | MARK SURRIDGE & BARICCI

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a seasoned hospitality professional with a rich background in business development, sales, and marketing with renowned hotels and F&B companies. With an unwavering passion for food, travel, and wines, he takes great delight in sharing his insights and experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengaluru cityexpress @gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The winner will receive a voucher worth ₹1,500 from Smoor Chocolates (dine-in only)**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Niangao; 2) Youtiao; 3) Tangyuan

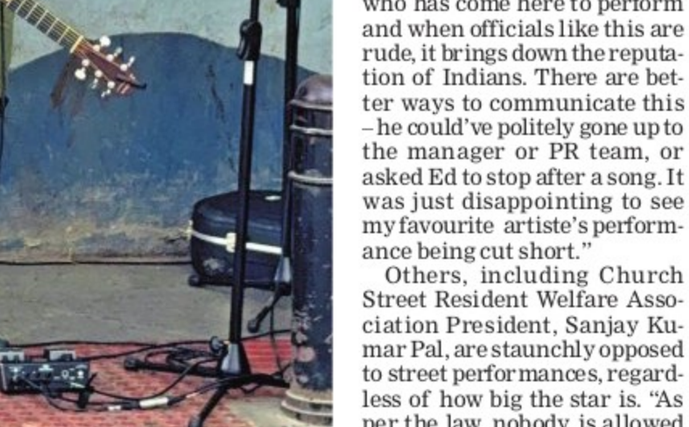
FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Naresh Jain
2. Rama Rao
3. Abhay Prakash

CITY READ

Play based on Hamlet to be staged on Feb 16

To Be or Not To Be, directed by Ranji David is a play inspired by Hamlet's soliloquy, presented in a metaphorical physical language. This production is an abstract musical with minimal dialogues. This visual extravaganza, follows the story of three characters caught in a large city, their dreams, aspirations and desires, along with the people in a city who are constantly running a meaningless rat race and a never ending desire to reach their materialistic goal. The play will be staged at ADA Ranga Mandira on February 16, 12pm.



Documentary dance performance on Feb 11, 12

Sandbox Collective is set to host EF_FEMININITY – Trio Version, a documentary dance performance, at Shoonya, Sudhama Nagar, on February 11 and 12. The performance is created by Swiss choreographers Marcel Schwald and Chris Leuenberger, featuring Shilok Mukkati, Diya Naidu, Chris Leuenberger, and Living Smile Vidya (via video). This Indo-Swiss collaboration examines femininity, hyper-femininity, and effeminacy, delving into gender identity, self-empowerment, and societal constructs of femininity through movement, text, and video projections.

Once considered a fashion faux pas, the duo of socks and sandals is becoming a popular trend among Bengalureans

Toe-tally TRENDY!

ANJALI RAM

FOR a long period, wearing socks and sandals was considered a style slip – not falling into the realm of fashion trends. The style was even compared to a typical 'granny' style or tourist style. But in recent years, this quirky duo has made a bold comeback, ruling many celebrity wardrobes and street-style fashion. With celebrities like Kendall Jenner, Rihanna, and Justin Bieber embracing it, the trend now holds a signature spot in the fashion world. People of Bengaluru are now embracing this trend for many reasons that are beyond mere fashion labels.

For many, wearing socks and sandals is an ongoing blend of comfort into fashion. "The whole concept of socks and sandals came from the sense of comfort, and fashion just took it. I went for the whole concept of fashion first. But eventually, that concept of fashion became a comfort for me," says Khayr Ghayth, a fashion stylist. For city-based professor Godwin Emmanuel, it is a go-to comfort style in the city's weather. "I feel people in Bengaluru prefer the style because of the weather. Bengaluru's weather is the best thing ever, and it will allow you to wear socks and sometimes it will not; it's like a constant back and forth, considering how fast-paced the city is," he notes.

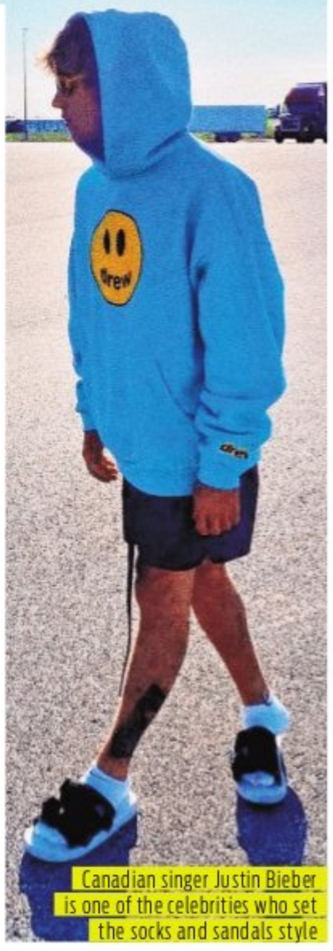
According to city-based fashion designer Lokam Himashree, this duo has long been accepted as part of a relaxed summer look in some countries and cultures. She notes how with global fashion trends and cultural crossovers, these styles are more accessible, acceptable and less confined to specific regions. "Fashion has been leaning into what used to be considered 'ugly' or 'uncool' items and making them fashionable, like chunky sneakers or oversized silhouettes," says Himashree.

The creative possibilities of mixing and matching are many, depending on whether you're going for something casual, quirky, or even high-fashion. Ghayth too stresses on the diverse options in styling, "I wear socks and maybe Birkenstock or maybe Nike slides with it. And the fun part about this is you can just be funky with it." She further adds to the universality of it, mentioning, "If you want to go to the office, you can wear sandals with black socks. It's classy and comfortable too. But if you're just going out with your friends, you can wear slides with funky colours." For students like Nishkarsh Singh, the socks and sandals combo is a part of their daily lives.

"I have usually worn this combo while playing sports but I wear it to my office sometimes when it's a bit chilly. I have been a badminton player for the last five years and I have played most of my matches while nursing the socks and sandal combo," he recounts.

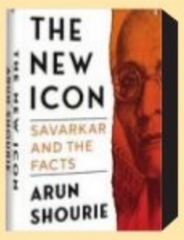
Interestingly, this style is not just confined to cold weather. Depending on the season, one can adjust the type of socks they wear. In the summer, lightweight cotton or sheer socks paired with open-toe sandals look breezy and stylish. For cooler weather, one can opt for thicker socks or even knee-high ones with closed-toe sandals for a cosy yet stylish vibe.

As fashion continues to evolve and adapt toward personal expression, the socks-and-sandals trend is likely to evolve with it. Not as just a combination of footwear, but as a statement that resonates with the emotion – fashion is nothing less than comfort.



Canadian singer Justin Bieber is one of the celebrities who set the socks and sandals style

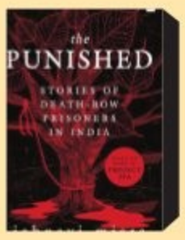
BOOK NOOK



The New Icon: Savarkar and the Facts

By Arun Shourie

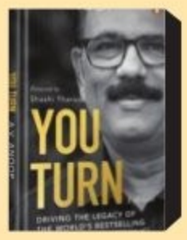
This book is a searing exploration of Veer Savarkar's unflinching rationalism and his audacious critique of blind faith, hollow rituals, and outdated traditions.



The Punished: Stories of Death-Row Prisoners in India

By Jahnavi Misra

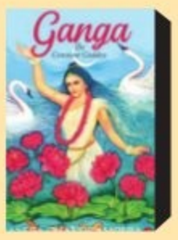
The book takes us on a journey into the lives and minds of men and women often demonised by society and discarded by the State.



You Turn

By AV Anoop

This memoir is a riveting story that offers guidance, anecdotes, valuable lessons, and reflections on his entrepreneurial journey with many upheavals, chance encounters, actions taken as a business leader, activist, philanthropist and filmmaker and a glimpse into the making of such an iconic brand.



Ganga: The Constant Goddess

By Anuja Chandramouli

A vibrant retelling of the story of Ganga, who has the power to save us all and bestow the precious gift of moksha, embracing saints and sinners alike with her all-encompassing compassion.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Lise Breuil, director of Agence Française de Développement, speaks at the screening of *Bigger than Us* by Flore Vasseur (on screen), a documentary about young changemakers from across the world | VINOD KUMAR T

QUICKFIX

MASALA POMFRET

INGREDIENTS

- **Cleaned small pomfret:** 3-4
- **Ginger-garlic paste:** 2 tsp
- **Coriander powder:** 2 tsp
- **Turmeric powder:** ½ tsp
- **Kashmiri red chilli powder:** 2 tsp
- **Cumin powder:** ½ tsp
- **Garam masala:** ½ tsp
- **Lime juice:** 1 tbsp
- **Salt:** 1 tsp

METHOD

- Combine ginger-garlic paste, coriander powder, turmeric powder, Kashmiri red chilli powder, cumin powder, garam masala, lime juice, and salt in a bowl to make a marinade.
- Clean and wash the pomfret. Score the fish lightly on both sides.
- Rub the marinade all over the fish, including inside the scores. Let it marinate for at least 15-30 minutes.
- Heat oil in a pan. Fry the marinated fish on medium heat until both sides are golden brown and cooked through for about 5-6 minutes on each side.
- Garnish with fresh cilantro and serve hot with lemon wedges.

Contributed by **Tultul Mukherjee,** Bengaluru

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

Since winter, my four-year-old dog is leaving white flakes behind which look like dandruff. Can you suggest some grooming tips and shampoos to treat it?

Winter's dry air and low humidity can lead to dandruff in dogs. To combat this, keep your dog hydrated and increase grooming to remove loose skin. A humidifier can also help maintain moisture indoors. Use a moisturising pet-specific shampoo, such as Oatmeal Pet Shampoo or vet-recommended medicated shampoo, which soothes and hydrates dry skin. Avoid human shampoos, as they can be harsh. Regular brushing with a gentle brush will help distribute natural oils and promote healthier skin. Adding omega-3 fatty acids to her diet can further improve skin health. If the flakes persist, consult a vet.

ASK AN XPERT

FITBIT

UTTANA PADASANA KNEES BENT

(RAISED LEGS POSE KNEES BENT)

This is a beginner-level pose done in supine position. It helps build strength at the knees, and is included in core yoga sequences. This pose is beneficial for the lower back, thigh, hamstrings, and pelvic by raising the legs bent at the knees. It helps stimulate the Manipura (Solar Plexus) Chakra.

STEPS

- Start in Supta Tadasana. Then bend the knees while bringing your feet close towards the body.
- Notice a reverse 'L' created by the knees. This position is Savasana Variation Bent Legs (Constructive Rest Pose).
- From there, raise both the legs bent at the knees, as shown in the image, while breathing out. Note that the knees are parallel to the floor.
- Now, bring your awareness to the breathing as you hold the pose. Feel the calm, slow, and deep breathing. Feel the pressure falling on the core at the time.
- Try not to move your legs and stay focused on the pose. Hold the pose for at least 8-10 breaths.
- To release the pose completely, bring the legs to the ground and relax in Savasana (Corpse Pose) for some time.

LIMITATIONS

- Students with any injury or having recently undergone surgery in the knees, legs or feet, having high pressure at the core, pregnant women, senior citizens with chronic rheumatoid arthritis, and neuromuscular issues, should avoid this.
- Students with weak knees or osteoarthritis (acute) may do with the help of a yoga block between the knees.
- Those with a weak lower back or waist may use a folded blanket beneath the waist.

BENEFITS

- Stretches and strengthens the legs, the muscles of the hips, thighs, calves, hamstrings, and pelvic floor.
- Contracts the lower abdomen and helps tone the area.
- Students can build flexibility of the leg muscles.
- Increases flexibility, preparing the body for challenging poses.
- Contraction can be felt at the belly while holding this pose.
- Inhalation becomes shorter and the exhalation becomes deeper.
- Helps eliminate the unwanted gasses and slows down the heart rate with calm breathing.
- Students do abdominal breathing in this pose autonomously.
- Deeper breathing allows the lungs to intake more oxygen for optimal functioning of the respiratory system.
- Involves calm breathing that helps to soothe the brain.
- Sufficient oxygen intake during the practice helps cool down the brain.
- Can help you feel relaxed and combat fatigue after a tiresome day.
- Soothes the abdominal organs, stimulating the Manipura Chakra responsible for regulating the fire element and helps digestion.
- Therapy for students who have back pain due to long hours of sitting.
- Good for the postnatal women after four weeks of healing. Strengthens their core and pelvic region.
- It can easily be practised on the bed after one wakes up in the morning.
- Good for the teens as it helps the brain to calm and the mind to be focused.

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru / @tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@express_bengaluru

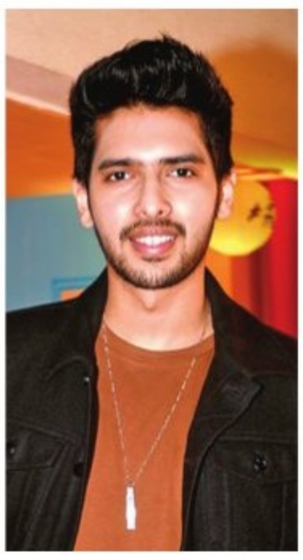
By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Soar High

Experience cutting-edge innovations and advanced aviation technology at Asia's largest air show, Aero India 2025. Explore groundbreaking developments in aerospace and defence, and get ready for an unforgettable experience.

WHEN: February 10, 9am onwards
WHERE: Air Force Station, Yelahanka
DETAILS: allevents.in



Musical Evening

Watch musical sensation **Armaan Malik** live on Valentine's Day and soak in the romantic vibes while swaying to beautiful music with your beau.

WHEN: February 14, 5pm
WHERE: NICE Grounds, Madavara
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Riverine Stories

Cauvery: River of Life, a film about the Cauvery river, is set for a screening. Take a mesmerising journey through the captivating and lesser-known habitats of Male Mahadeshwara Hills and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

WHEN: February 13, 6.30pm
WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Perfect Frame

Capture your essence with a professional photoshoot. Choose themes like nature, cafes, or pets. Men's outfits are included; women must bring their own. Receive all shots plus one, expertly edited.

WHEN: February 10, 12.30pm
WHERE: Marcopolo Cafe, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Comedy Chronicles

Get ready for a hilarious evening as Bengaluru's standup comedians take the stage to test fresh jokes, refine their material, and deliver side-splitting performances. Don't miss this chance to experience the raw, unfiltered charm of comedy in the making.

WHEN: February 10, 8pm **WHERE:** Mon Cheri Resto Cafe, Indiranagar
DETAILS: allevents.in

Beat Blast

Shake off the Monday blues with an evening of headbanging, dance-offs, and partying with an energetic crowd. Let talented DJs set the vibe – because dull moments aren't an option.

WHEN: February 10, 8pm
WHERE: Drunken Daddy, Koramangala
DETAILS: highape.com

ARTCORNER

THE FACE OF GRACE

Artist Amitabh Sengupta draws on European modernism and cross-cultural experiences to paint womanhood from his imagination

SPARKING A DEBATE

Experts weigh in on what the state government's recent ruling regarding vehicular traffic in Cubbon Park means for the city's future

ANUBHAB ROY

BENGALURU'S tryst as a metropolis, with stagnant traffic, has been a living fact for its residents for long. Throughout the expanse of the city, unruly drivers, poor infrastructure, and resultant traffic snarls abound. The recent ruling by the government allowing vehicular traffic inside Cubbon Park every second and fourth Saturday nights, should raise some serious eyebrows – not simply in isolation, but also for what it means for the future identity of the once-beloved Garden City.

For those unaware, the ruling allows vehicular traffic between 7pm and 10pm on applicable Saturday nights, as opposed to the park being completely free of traffic on weekends, except pedestrian traffic. It is important to note that this is a ruling enforced on a 'trial-basis' period of three months, although that makes one wonder if the period is too long to begin with, and if the damage caused would be irreparable. For ecologist and ornithologist MB Krishna, the additional damage is marginal. "The traffic is being extended for three hours every fortnight which amounts to an additional 2.7 per cent," he mentions. Krishna believes that instead of viewing this marginal percent in isolation, it is important to contextualise this ruling in the larger picture of rapid erasure of greenery and tree cover. Krishna talks in terms of energy, citing the unsustainable equation between India's population growth and the proportionate decline in forest cover; it takes no more than a layperson to understand the basic oxygen requirements of an individual, and the terrifying prospect of its only natural source being directly and consistently under attack.

For birdwatcher Prashanth Badarinath, this, even of itself, is not without significance. "Large parks , unlike the smaller BBMP parks, offer a lot more nichés for migrant and resident birds. Knowing that traffic is heavy on Saturdays, it would be wise of the authorities to leave the last few lung spaces of the city undisturbed. One would think it is just a brief day or two in a month, but the volume of traffic can have untold effects," he asserts, continuing to echo Krishna's sentiments by stating, 'such relaxation in rules should not set a precedent to relax them further'.

Badarinath's statement should usher the residents of the town to acknowledge that the gravity of the problem moves beyond Cubbon Park's verdant greenery and flora. Like any flourishing ecosystem, the park's trees, bushes, and water bodies are home to innumerable fauna, including but not limited to the avian kind. As Ulhas Anand, a birdwatcher and co-founder of EcoEdu, states, "Cubbon Park is a special place of importance for bat colonies within the park. The light, sound and dust pollution caused by vehicles will be detrimental to them. The park also hosts numerous moth species that aid (in) pollination, and these would also get affected." Even beyond the harm done to ecosystem exchange, like the perils faced by the moth colonies at the park, the threat also materialises in more conspicuous forms. In Anand's words, "It's not just birds or bats. A lot of smaller creatures will also be affected by this move. As numerous studies have pointed out, vehicular movement results in a lot of roadkill."

What most experts and concerned citizens align on is the fact that this precedent augurs a further slide. As Anand states, "Any allowance would be bad for the park. It also goes against the rulings and efforts of people like Justice Saldhana on preserving the sanctity of the park. Other infrastructural alternatives should be explored while keeping the status of the park sacrosanct."

DAY
Second & fourth Saturday

TIME
7pm to 10pm

> *Cubbon Park is a special place of importance for bat colonies within the park. The light, sound and dust pollution caused by vehicles will be detrimental to them*
>
> Ulhas Anand, birdwatcher

JITHA KARTHIKEYAN

(The writer is an artist and curator, passionate about making art accessible to the larger public)

TALKING ART

THE PERFECT PAIRING

SOME things in life are inseparable – rain and a cup of chai, Indian roads and excavations for repairs, art, and wine... Take a glimpse at all the photographs of art show openings floating around on social media. There's art on the walls of course, completely or for the most part, obscured by people with fancy hairdos, wearing clothes that seem like they have been hastily pulled out of laundry baskets with zero time to colour coordinate. Don't be fooled, for reality speaks otherwise – they are the outcome of hours of careful consideration. And then, here's the most important part: there is always a glass of wine, half sipped and precariously balanced on fingertips while chatting or posing for the photograph, smile intact. The wine is invariably omnipresent.

How on earth did Fine Art get so dearly associated with wine? Was it devised to entice an audience to visit an art exhibition, which most people normally consider absolutely boring? Indecipherable art and write-ups that would make anyone want to consult the dictionary regularly can certainly be an ordeal for the uninitiated. Pairing wine with art perhaps then, presents the perfect solution! Both have something in common – sensory pleasures and aesthetics. Sipping wine would obviously enhance the viewing experience and remove doubts of boredom. Alcohol of any sort, as we all know, can intensify emotions and this can set the mood to understand art on a deeper level. It has been said that the philosophy discussed in bars can surely surpass the discussions of the greatest minds any day!

Gallery owners whose primary concern is the sale of art, definitely seek to give the guests at a show opening a reason to stay on longer than it would have ideally taken to view the artworks. It is conducive to business if prospective buyers would linger on, greeting old friends and making new ones and wine certainly helps give an impetus to extending one's hours. A glass would naturally lead to another and with moods thus lightened, the art calls for a second and a third look. The reflection on the true meaning of it all, suddenly takes on a new urgency, wine glass still in hand, mind you. And who knows, it may even end up as promises exchanged to buy a work or two!

That said, it is also imperative to understand that the free supply of wine does not make the gallery a bar. It is of utmost importance that a certain decorum has to be maintained, for more than a few glasses could not only lead to extreme embarrassment, it could also put invaluable artworks at risk.

Art show openings are significant milestones in an artist's journey. It is that moment when the years of solitary studio practice are packaged and presented to an audience and enjoying a glass of wine while gazing at it all, can undeniably create a meditative experience for the visitors. So, the next time you attend an art show, savour the exquisite wine but don't forget to engage with the soul of the artist, displayed on those white walls!

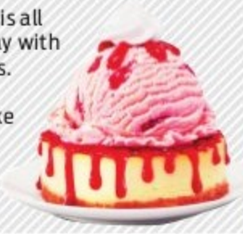
(The writer's views are personal)

NUGGETS

OLD-SCHOOL-THEMED VALENTINE'S CELEBRATIONS TO BE HELD

Watson's, Indiranagar is set to host a Valentine's Day celebration featuring romantic tracks from the '90s and 2000s. Highlights are curated playlists and dishes alongside refreshing drinks for couples and friends who are planning to celebrate the night. The standout feature includes a Polaroid picture with your loved ones. For reservations, call 63648 77352.

FLAVOURS OF SUNDAES CURATED FOR VALENTINE'S DAY



Baskin Robbins, an ice cream outlet, is all geared up to welcome Valentine's Day with an array of sundaes across all outlets. Flavours include chocolate lovers' waffle sundae, strawberry cheesecake sundae, and croissant fine sundae. Starting from ₹ 185 ++, the different flavours of sundaes offer a refreshing experience.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Prasad Deshpande, aged about 30 years, S/o. Mr. Pramod Deshpande, R/at Plot No. 19, Sector No. 10, Anjaneya Nagar, Belagavi City - 590016, Karnataka, India, I have changed my name from **PRASAD DESHPANDE** to **PRASAD PRAMOD DESHPANDE** vide affidavit dated 08.02.2025 sworn before advocate and notary, Indira S.S, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JOYSTON FERNANDES, S/o. Jerome Fernandes, Aged about 23 years, R/at: No.1, 2nd Floor, 8th Cross, Jalageramma Temple, Opp. Gopi Traders, Lottegollahalli, RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560094, I declare that below mentioned names of my father i.e., **JEROME FERNANDES** and **MAXIM JEROME FERNANDES** both of these above mentioned names belong to a single person i.e., my father and are one and the same. and I declare that below mentioned names of my mother i.e., **LEENA FERNANDES** and **IRENE LEENA FERNANDES** both of these above mentioned names belong to a single person i.e., my mother and are one and the same., vide affidavit dated 7/2/2025 sworn to before Jalandhara Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMOGHAH KESARI R, aged about 22 years, S/O Ravi H N, Residing at No. 1037, 6th A Main, 3rd Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079, I declare that below mentioned names **AMOGHAH KESARI R** and **AMOGHAH KESARI CAUSHIQ** are one and the same and belongs to me only. I declare that in future for all purposes I continue my name as **AMOGHAH KESARI R,** vide affidavit dated 6/2/2025 sworn to before Ratna.N Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **K B REKAMAI** also known as **B K REKA** W/o **B R K C Krishna Kumar** aged 40 years R/at SLV Magnum, Flat No.117, B Block, Manjunatha Layout, Kodichikkanahalli, Bangalore- 560076 have changed my name to **B K REKA** vide affidavit dated: 8/2/2025 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

I, (OLD NAME) SYED IFTHEKHAR residing at No. 60/1, Flat No.1B, 1st Floor, Sharieff Residency, Narayanappa Block, Benson Town, BANGALORE-560046, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SYED IFTHEKHAR** to **(NEW NAME) SYED IFTHKHAR** vide affidavit dated 06.02.2025 sworn before Notary M.K.Devaki., Bangalore.

I, **VENKATESH T,** Father of **VIBHA T**, resident of No.273, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, 1st Stage, Vasantha Vallabha Nagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560062, Karnataka, India, have changed my daughter name from **VIBHA T** to **VIBHA TAKKALKI**, vide affidavit dated 06-02-2025 sworn before notary S.N Madhu, Reg. No.10108, Bengaluru.

I, **SUNIL KUMAR P V**, S/o Varghees residing at No.77, 3rd Cross, 1st Main C Cross, Ganesha Temple Chamundeshwari Temple, Bangalore - 560097, do hereby declare that names **SUNIL KUMAR P V** and **SUNIL AUGUSTINE P V**, both belongs to the same person and that is me only, vide affidavit dated 07/02/2025, sworn before advocate and notary K C PEMMAIAH, at Bengaluru.

I, **Uma**, W/o Late Honnashamaiaah, R/a: #12, 3rd Cross, Behind Govt. School, Nelagadaranahalli, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - 560073. I have changed my name to **UJJINAMMA,** Vide affidavit dated 06-02-2025 duly sworn before notary V. Srinivasa Reddy, Bengaluru vide Sl.No.21, Page No.06, Book No.1.

I, **Radhakrishna Rajendrappa Doddamani,** resident of No. 5/98, Main Road, Gundagurthi Malkhed (J) Malkhed, Sedam, Kalaburagi, Pin 585292, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Radhakrishna** to **Radhakrishna Rajendrappa Doddamani,** vide affidavit dated 06.02.2025, sworn to before Puttaramaiah, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

I, **Damodar M. K.** (Old Name), S/o Pullaiah Masapeta Kuruva, R/at H. No. 69/89, Joharapuram Village , B-Camp Post, Kurnool Dist, Andhra Pradesh, India - 518 002 (permanent Address) has changed my name as **DAMODAR MASAPETA KURUVA,** I have executed Affidavit dated 20.12.2024 before the Notary Public/ Judicial Officer to the said effect. I shall be known as **DAMODAR MASAPETA KURUVA** (new name) for all purposes in future.

Sd/- Damodar M K (Old name)

I, **N. ANNAPURNAMMA,** aged about 71 years, D/o. Sri.E. NAGAPPA, residing at Bowring Hospital Nurses Family Quarters, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-51 have changed my name from **N. ANNAPURNAMMA to N. ANNAPOORNA** vide affidavit dated: 21/11/1995, sworn before Advocate & Notary N. Dorarajulu Naidu, Bangalore.

I, YASH KANKARIA S/o Manish Jain, Residing at No.10/1, Parasmani Signature, 1st Cross, Shankarpuram, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004, Do solemnly affirm that I have Changed my name from the (Old Name) Yash Kankariya to (New Name) YASH KANKARIA. In future my name called as Yash Kankaria for all the Purpose. Affidavit sworn before Notary L. Shankaranarayana, Bengaluru, Reg. No. 6312

I, (OLD NAME) IBRAHIM BAIG residing at No. 35/2, 8th Main Road, Padarayanapura, BANGALORE-560026, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) IBRAHIM BAIG** to **(NEW NAME) IBRAHIM BAIG KHAMRU ANSAR** vide affidavit dated 06.02.2025 sworn before Notary M.K.Devaki., Bangalore.

I, **SEETHA SRINIVASA MURTHY** mother of **ANJAN KUMAR SRINIVASA (ANJAN KUMAR S),** Residing at #004, Kanaka Ecstasy, Subramanyapura Main Road, Kadirenahalli, Bengaluru-560061,Karnataka India, have changed my son name from **ANJAN KUMAR S** to **ANJAN KUMAR SRINIVASA** vide affidavit dated 08-02-2025 sworn before notary S.N Madhu, Reg.No.10108, Bengaluru.

I, **TORAN KUMAR**, S/o Chetan Ram residing at Flat No. 11.1.2, Shriram Sameeksha Apartment, Naidu Layout Kuvempunagar 2nd Stage, Jalahalli East Bangalore - 560014, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **TORAN KUMAR JANGHEL** to **TORAN KUMAR**. Henceforth, I shall be known and called as **TORAN KUMAR** only, vide affidavit dated 08/02/2025, sworn before advocate and notary K C PEMMAIAH, at Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Mr. SUCHIR KUMAR .B.G,** aged about 48 years, S/o. Sri B.R. Gurumurthy, residing at Flat No. 1084, Sobha Clovelly Subramanyapura Main Road, Gowdanapalya, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru-560061, Karnataka, do hereby declare that my daughter's name is **SUDHEEKSHA BHARADWAJ.** In her Birth Certificate and in her Aadhar Card bearing No. 4867 2171 9985 her name is mentioned as **Sudheeksha .B.S** instead of **SUDHEEKSHA BHARADWAJ**, vide affidavit dated 08.02.2025, sworn to before H.G. Padmanabha Rao, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

I, **JYOTI PATIL,** Aged about 35 years, W/o. Anil Kumar Doreswamy, resident of Flat No.402, RR Shreyas, 4F, 3rd Cross, Canara Bank Colony, Chikkalsandra, Subramanyapura, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560061, Karnataka, India, have changed my name from **JYOTI PATIL** to **JYOTI APPANGOUDA PATIL,** vide affidavit dated 09-02-2025sworn before notary H.G.Padmanabha Rao, Reg. No.12464, Bengaluru.

I, (OLD NAME) VENKATESH DODDATHIMAIAH Residing at S/o DODDATHIMMAIAH No.51, 10th Cross, 3rd Main, Nrupathunganagar, NGEF Layout, Bengaluru - 560072 Have Changed my Name from **(OLD NAME) VENKATESH DODDATHIMAIAH** to **(NEW NAME) VENKATESH DODDATHIMMAIAH** vide Affidavit Dated 07.02.2025 Sworn Before Notary K.C. Shashikala.

I, DHARMESH, S/o. Shri. Panneer Selvam, R/@ No.268/1, 6th Cross, Oil Mill Road, Shamanna Layout, Lingarajapuram, St. Thomas Town, Bengaluru- 560084, have changed my name from **DHARMESH to DHARMESHA P.** (i.e . Dharmesha Panneer Selvam), vide affidavit dated: 07/02/2025, sworn before Notary Public, Uday Kumar K., Bangalore.

I, (OLD NAME) MOHIDEEN ABDUL KADER KAJA residing at No.734, 13th B Cross, Nagarabhavi 1st Stage, Chandra Layout, BANGALORE-560040, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) MOHIDEEN ABDUL KADER KAJA** to **(NEW NAME) MOHIDEEN KAJA** vide affidavit dated 06.02.2025 sworn before Notary M.K.Devaki., Bangalore.

I, **DHRUV RAGHUNANDAN,** aged about 17 years, son of MR. RAGHUNANDAN MANCHENAHALLI, residing at No. 8/1, South Cross Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru 560004, (having name as "DHRUV RAGHUNANDAN RAO" in Birth Certificate), do hereby state and declare that my name for all identification, statutory, record and legal purposes is **"DHRUV RAGHUNANDAN".**

I, **PANKAJA**, W/o Muniswamy Naidu, resident of No.6/2, 1st Cross, Tridevi Road, Kadirenahalli Cross, BSK 2nd Stage, Banaglore-560070. Karnataka, India, have changed my name from **PANKAJA** to **PANKAJAMMA**, vide affidavit dated 31-12-2024 sworn before notary H.G. PADMANABHA RAO, Reg.No.12464 Bangalore.

I, **SRIDHARA HOSURU SHESHABHATT** (new name), previously called **SRIDHARA HOSUR SHESHABATT** (old name), S/o Sheshabhatt H S, R/o Hosuru, Guddekeri Post 577411, Thirthahalli Taluk, Shimoga District, Karnataka State have changed my name as **SRIDHARA HOSURU SHESHABHATT** vide affidavit dated 08-02-2025 sworn before Notary B. Seetharama, Thirthhalli.

I, **HABEEB**, aged about 49 years, S/o. Mr. Nazeer, Currently residing at #17, 1st Cross, Near Govt. School, Vijaya Nagar, Whitefield, Bangalore-560066, do hereby declare that I have changed my name **HABEEB** Surname **NAZEER,** vide affidavit dated 08.02.2025, sworn to before Yankoba, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

I, **SNEHA H PAWAR** (new name) aged about 29 years, previously called **SNEHA SHINDHE** (old name) W/o Hemant P Pawar, R/at Flat No-014, Sashank Aadya, Ambha Bhavani Temple Road, Shamarajapura, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore North-560 097. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'SNEHA SHINDHE'** to **"SNEHA H PAWAR"**, vide Affidavit dated 29.01.2025, Sworn before Advocate and Notary S.R Ravikumar, Bangalore.

I, **TEJAS KULKARNI, resident of # 197, 39th Main, 1st Cross, BTM Layout, 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560068, Karnataka, have changed my name to TEJAS GURURAJ KULKARNI** vide affidavit dated 20-01-2025 sworn to before advocate and notary H.G. Venkataramu, Bangalore.

For SMART ADS & THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

'RAJU JAMES BOND IS DISTINCTLY KANNADA IN ITS STORYTELLING'

..says director Deepak Madhuvanahalli, along with producer Kiran Bharthur, talks about Gurunandan's transformation into his signature 'Raju' character in the upcoming film *Raju James Bond*

Manjunath Vishwakarma

Kiran Bharthur

Director Deepak Maduvanahalli on the sets of Raju James Bond

Gurunandan

CE FEATURES

JAMES Bond, one of the most iconic franchises in international cinema, has inspired countless adaptations across cultures. For the Kannada film industry, *Raju James Bond* reportedly offers a unique twist to the legendary spy's legacy, blending it with local flavour. Directed by Deepak Madhuvanahalli, the film, releasing on February 14, promises an exciting ride, combining action, humour, and romance wrapped in a commercial package. However, Deepak is quick to point out that despite the name, *Raju James Bond* isn't your typical spy thriller.

"Our *Raju James Bond* is about a middle-class boy's struggle," says the filmmaker. "Gurunandan, our protagonist, has made a name for himself with the 'Raju' character in films like *1st Rank Raju* and *Raju Kannada Medium*, where he portrayed an innocent character. But this Raju is different. He's street-smart, intelligent, and has the kind of attitude that drives a mass commercial film."

While the original *James Bond* is a sophisticated British spy, the Kannada adaptation adds a local twist, with Raju's journey taking him to the UK. However, as per the makers, this isn't a globe-trotting espionage mission; it's a fun-filled, action-packed ride that explores the dynamics of good versus evil, with a personal transformation at its core.

Gurunandan brings his signature charisma to this new role, says the filmmaker. Deepak reveals, "Gurunandan as Raju is aggressive, fearless, and never does comedy. Instead, actors like Sadhu Kokila and Chikkanna provide comic relief, making it a wholesome, hilarious rom-com with plenty of action." As per Deepak, the blend of action and comedy is one of the film's highlights. Raju's cat-and-mouse game with the antagonist, Ravi Shankar, who plays Bhoottayya, an MLA with sinister motives, creates a brilliant clash with Gurunandan's Raju, taking the story to new heights. "The brilliance of the battle between these two characters is where we see the essence of a James Bond film, but in a different cultural context," Deepak adds.

It's not just about the story—immense passion has gone into the production. Manjunath Vishwakarma from London and Kiran Bharthur from Canada, both NRI businessmen with a deep love for cinema, have backed the project under the Karma Bro's Productions banner.

Kiran shares his excitement: "I wanted to give Gurunandan's character a unique twist. The concept was already fresh, but with the right script, director, and team, it became something special. We want to entertain and help people unwind. It's all about giving people a good time at the movies."

The movie, which blends action, thriller, and comedy, also features Mrudula as the female lead and Tabla Nani in an important supporting role. Despite the playful homage to James Bond, *Raju James Bond* remains distinctly Kannada in its storytelling, promise the film's makers. It doesn't follow the traditional spy thriller formula but instead focuses on local flavours, compelling characters, and an engaging, fun narrative.

"Cinema doesn't always need to be logical," says Bharthur. "Sometimes, it just needs to entertain and provide something enjoyable for the audience."

With a sequel already in the works, the *Raju James Bond* franchise looks set to continue, promising more action, humour, and the indomitable spirit of Raju. As Deepak concludes, "The *Raju James Bond* story is far from over."

Munegowda

'THERE ARE NO SET RULES IN CINEMA'

...says advocate-turned-filmmaker Gireesh Mulimani as he discusses his upcoming film *Bhuvanam Gaganam*, starring Pramod and Pruthvi Ambaar

CE FEATURES

GIREESH Mulimani is a man of many facets. By profession, he is an advocate who practiced law for three years, but his love for writing and reading eventually steered him away from the legal field and into filmmaking. As he reflects on his transition, he shares, "Being an advocate, I realised there are no set rules in cinema, unlike in law. Cinema is all about imagination and visualisation."

Gireesh's journey into direction began with his debut in Rajarau, but with the upcoming romantic drama *Bhuvanam Gaganam*, he takes on a more significant responsibility as a commercial director. "While Rajarau was my first attempt, *Bhuvanam Gaganam* marks my second film, a much bigger project, where I had to deal with a romantic drama, blending all the elements. It's a special project, and I'm excited for the audience to see my work in a new light," the filmmaker says as he prepares for its February 14 release.

Bhuvanam Gaganam, a film that explores the depths of pure love, is a collaboration between Gireesh and two actors, Pramod and Pruthvi Ambaar, in a multi-starrer. Gireesh praises his lead actors, highlighting their performances. "Pramod plays an aggressive, angry young man, while Pruthvi Ambaar portrays a character suffering from a condition—someone who is neglected but with a heart full of love. The dynamic between these characters brings out the true essence of pure love," he explains.

Bhuvanam Gaganam is also special for the filmmaker because it marks the debut production of his longtime associate M Munegowda under the banner of SVC Films. Gireesh reveals, "I've known Munegowda for a while, and when I shared my idea with him, he was instantly attracted to it. He ventured into production with this film, and it's been a wonderful experience working with him. Munegowda is also producing Ayogya 2, directed by Mahesh Kumar, which is his second venture."

At its heart, *Bhuvanam Gaganam* is an exploration of love, both its purity and its power to bridge gaps between people, says Gireesh. The filmmaker elaborates, "The sky and land are at a distance, which can't be measured, but they connect through air and rain. Love is like that—invisible, yet all-encompassing. Even the most stone-hearted person has love, whether they realise it or not. The film talks about the value of relationships and the power of pure love between the characters."

Bhuvanam Gaganam features actors such as Rachel David, Ashwati, Achyuth Kumar, Sharath Lohitashwara, Sparsha Rekha, and Sridhar. The film's music is composed by Gummineni Vijay, and Uday Leela handles the cinematography.

Gireesh pours his passion for storytelling as he continues to discuss the film's deeper meaning. "This is a story about the emotional connection between people, no matter what their circumstances are. I'm confident that the audience will connect with the emotions portrayed in every character," he says.

A slow-burn thriller trapped between mystery and myth

ADHIPATRA
Director: Chayan Shetty
Cast: Roopesh Shetty, Jahnavi Mahadi, Prakash Thuminad, Raghu Pandeshwar, and Deepak Rai Panaje

A SHARADHAA

ADHIPATRA attempts to carve a unique space within the supernatural thriller genre, drawing comparisons to films like *Kantara* and *RangiTaranga*. While the film doesn't reach the heights of its predecessors, it offers a different perspective on rural myths and personal redemption. The slower, quieter moments offer some charm, although the film occasionally drags.Online movie streaming services

The film is set in Shivapura, an eerie village, with a decaying police station symbolising the neglect of both the building itself and an investigation. This is where we meet Athreya (Roopesh Shetty), a police officer burdened by his past, who takes a transfer from a city to this village, tasked with uncovering truths no one dares to confront. Alongside him on this journey is Constable Ramappa (Prakash Thuminad), who has been serving at the station for five years.

The investigation begins with the strange death of Vishwanath; it is unclear whether it is a case of suicide or murder. The investigation grows more complicated with each clue, leading to Gaggara Betta, a place steeped in supernatural folklore. The Brahma Rakshasa legend ties into the mystery, suggesting that something darker than myth is at play.

Athreya's quest for his own identity is tied to a past he's never known. He's told he's an orphan and seeks to find his parents while solving the murders. A personal connection to the case is just out of reach, with clues pointing to the deaths and hidden secrets in the village. The discovery of an unidentified poison in Vishwanath's body deepens the mystery, as does newspaper editor Balarama's (Prashanth Nata) revelation that ties the deaths together. The film introduces Markhandaya (MK Mata), whose significance becomes clearer as the investigation unfolds. The fate of the girl and the woman found in the forest intertwines with Athreya's journey and the village's hidden truths.Online movie streaming services

As the investigation progresses, the line between myth and reality blurs. Secrets buried for generations surface, revealing a much darker and more complex story behind the deaths and the fate of Athreya's parents. Directed by Chayan Shetty, *Adhipatra* mixes myth and mystery, but the supernatural elements feel secondary, failing to carry the narrative's weight. The film focuses on the investigation, but the folklore only emerges at the end, without fully exploring its connection to the present-day events in the village.

Athreya's emotional journey and his search for answers about his parents could have anchored the narrative, but the film doesn't delve deeply enough into his inner turmoil. Roopesh Shetty's performance is earnest, but his character sometimes feels adrift in the complex plot. Supporting characters like Bruhati (Jahnavi Mahadi), a journalist investigating the murders, are underutilised. Bruhati's backstory could have added depth, but she remains a peripheral figure in Athreya's journey. Apart from them, there are a host of actors from the coastal belt, including Raghu Pandeshwar and Deepak Rai Panaje.

The pacing is one of the film's biggest challenges. At two and a half hours, the deliberate pace risks losing viewer engagement. Slow-burn thrillers can be effective, but here the pacing often feels like an endurance test rather than a deliberate storytelling choice. The revelations are spread out too thinly, and by the time the climax arrives, you feel the film could have revealed its truths earlier for a more compelling impact.

Despite its pacing issues, the setting—the coastal Tulu Nadu backdrop, Kalenja rituals, and haunting legends—is intriguing. However, the supernatural elements feel like an afterthought, barely shaping the plot. The mythological aspects are overshadowed by the personal stories of the characters and the murders that drive the narrative.

Ultimately, *Adhipatra* presents intriguing ideas but struggles to deliver them with the urgency and depth they deserve. It tells a story of murder, folklore, and self-discovery but never reaches the gripping intensity it aspires to. Despite this, it remains a watchable experience for fans of slow-burn mysteries and Tulu Nadu culture.

Lacks strength to wrestle with emotions

GAJARAMA
Director: Sunil Kumar VA
Cast: Rajavardan, Thapaswini Poonacha, Ragini Dwivedi, Sharath Lohitashwa, and Deepak

A SHARADHAA

BEFORE we delve into the story, let's address the raw, gritty pulse of the film: *Gajarama*. It is an exploration of strength, heartbreak, and the collision between ambition and emotion—though not without its missteps. But what does it signify when a man whose physical power rivals that of a beast still falters in the very human world of love and failure?Online movie streaming services

Gajarama follows the journey of a young, aspiring wrestler, *Gajarama* (Rajavardan), who is unaware of his immense strength and the complexities of love. Guided by his mentor, Rudranna (Sharath Lohitashwa), a former wrestler with unfulfilled dreams, trains *Gajarama* to become a champion. His path is complicated by heartbreak when his childhood love, Anjali (Thapaswini Poonacha), hands him her wedding card. Devastated, he turns to wrestling for redemption and self-discovery.

As he heads to Bengaluru to compete in a national wrestling competition, *Gajarama* learns that Anjali's fiancé, Deepak, is caught in a dangerous crime investigation. Deepak's battle against the ruthless Alex (Kabir Duhan Singh) adds another layer of tension to *Gajarama*'s already tumultuous journey. As the film progresses, his personal and professional worlds collide, intertwining his ambitions in the ring with his emotional turmoil.

The question remains: Can *Gajarama* reconcile his heartbreak and dreams of glory, or will his past define him forever? The film takes us deep into *Gajarama*'s emotional and physical battles, exploring whether he can rise above his pain and achieve his dreams. Ultimately, it asks whether he can balance his personal struggles with his quest for success or whether his future will crumble under the weight of his past.

Sunil Kumar VA, the director of *Gajarama*, begins with the promise of a wrestling competition intertwined with a love story. However, as the film progresses, the focus shifts more toward emotional struggles and personal battles, leaving the initial premise of the sport behind. The second half becomes a maze of heartbreak, abrupt emotional transitions, and personal conflicts, culminating in an ending that feels rushed and incomplete.

The screenplay looks apt for the genre but not as engaging as we would have wanted to. While cinematographer KS Chandrashekhar captures the raw essence of the film, Mano Murthy adds a mass appeal to the songs, though the background score fails to match the tone and intensity of the narrative. The director's choice of experienced technicians and artists is evident, but the script lacks refinement. A tighter screenplay could have made *Gajarama* more impactful.

Raghini Dwivedi steals the spotlight with her energetic dance moves in "Saarai Shanthamma."

Rajavardan, in his fifth film, fits the role of a commercial film hero with his impressive physique and look. He portrays two distinct shades—one as a naive village youth and another as a determined wrestler—but his performance needed more polish and depth to fully capture his character's journey. Thapswini, playing a dual role, is often overshadowed by the film's shifting focus.

Sharath Lohitashwa does his part as Rudranna, the wrestling mentor, though at times he feels disconnected from the story. Kabir Duhan Singh appears as the antagonist, while Tukhali Santhosh provides minimal comic relief. Deepak's special role as a police officer adds little to the overall narrative. The film's imbalance between its various elements leaves it feeling uneven and underwhelming.

In the end, *Gajarama* explores wrestling and personal battles, both in the ring and within the heart. While the emotional depth and themes of ambition, love, and failure hold promise, the film's uneven pacing and lack of refinement prevent it from fully realising its potential. It's a journey of grit and heart, but one that feels incomplete in its execution. With wrestling and personal struggles central to the story, both elements leave us wanting more.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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A SPACE MARKETING INITIATIVE

AERO HERO *is here*

Aero India 2025, taking off today at Air Force Station Yelahanka, promises an enhanced experience with significant infrastructure upgrades and improved amenities. Key agencies, including the Ministry of Defence, Indian Air Force, and local authorities, have collaborated to optimise traffic flow, widen roads, and introduce real-time monitoring for seamless connectivity. Security measures, including red drone zones and rapid mobile units, prioritise attendee safety and emergency preparedness.

As Aero India 2025 prepares for takeoff at the Air Force Station Yelahanka today, organisers have set the stage for a game-changing experience. With significant infrastructure upgrades, improved amenities, and seamless coordination between various agencies, this edition of Aero India promises to be bigger, smoother, and more visitor-friendly than ever before.

In response to past challenges, substantial improvements have been made to ensure smooth entry, movement, and connectivity for all visitors. The Ministry of Defence, the Indian Air Force (IAF), and key agencies such as the Bengaluru Traffic Police, NHAI, BBMP, and Namma Metro have collaborated closely to make this possible. Roads leading to the Air Force Station Yelahanka have been widened, optimising traffic flow and easing congestion, ensuring better access to the venue.

Real-time traffic monitoring systems, in partnership with the Traffic Police, will dynamically adjust routes as needed. Visitors can also take advantage of free shuttle services, with AC Volvo buses running from various city locations directly to the event site.

These shuttles will help reduce traffic congestion while ensuring that attendees reach their destination without hassle.

In addition, aerial surveys have been conducted to address choke points, and newly widened roads will offer dedicated entry and exit routes for different categories of visitors, exhibitors, and officials.

Security and Emergency Preparedness

Security remains a top priority at Aero India 2025. Red drone zones have been marked, with countermeasures in place to prevent unauthorised drone activity. Rapid Mobile Units will be deployed to provide quick assistance and emergency support when needed. Continuous mock drills with multiple agencies are being conducted to ensure that contingency plans are both practical and executable in the event of an emergency.

Contd. on Page 2

AEROSPACE EXCELLENCE, ENGINEERED FOR TOMORROW

HALAMANEE AEROSPACE IS A LEADING COMPANY IN THE AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE SECTORS, FOCUSED ON PROVIDING CUTTING-EDGE SOLUTIONS, PRECISION ENGINEERING, AND EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE. HALAMANEE AEROSPACE PRIVATE LIMITED IS A PRIVATELY OWNED ENTITY HEAD QUARTERED IN BANGALORE, KARNATAKA, INDIA, AND IS RECOGNISED AS A LEADING END-TO-END SOLUTIONS PROVIDER.

At Halamanee Group, we are driven by a passion for innovation and a commitment to excellence. Our journey in Aerospace began 8 years ago.

Halamanee Aerospace was founded by a team of dedicated professionals with over 27 years of experience in the Aerospace domain, with the goal of establishing itself as a prominent global Aerospace and Defence manufacturing company, committed to delivering high-quality products to top-tier companies and OEMs.

Our journey began with a tool room-based setup under the name Halamanee Precisions. Over time, we expanded into the Aerospace sector as Halamanee Aerospace Pvt Ltd, establishing two state-of-the-art entities equipped with cutting-edge technology and machinery, with capabilities up to the 5th axis. Building on this growth, we have recently entered the sheet metal components sector with the launch of Halamanee Aerostructures Pvt Ltd. Currently we have 50-plus machines and a staff strength of 172 members.

Guided by a clear vision, we are now poised to venture into special processes and treatments, positioning ourselves as a leading provider of end-to-end Aerospace and Defence solutions. We strive to meet every customer need with a comprehensive, one-stop solution, ensuring unmatched quality and timely delivery. Our commitment to excellence has earned us the trust and recognition of a wide range of satisfied customers.

Over the years, we have evolved from a small team into a global player in the Aerospace and Defence industry.

HASPL FLYING TOGETHER
HALAMANEE AEROSTRUCTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
An AS 9100 D, ISMS- ISO 27001:2022, EHS-ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001 :2018 Certified Company

HAPL FLYING TOGETHER
HALAMANEE AEROSPACE PRIVATE LIMITED
An AS 9100 D, ISMS- ISO 27001:2022, EHS-ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001 :2018 Certified Company
Unit - I & Unit - II

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Dayananda KG	Ravikumar SG	Nisarga HD
Managing Director	Managing Director	General Manager
9900008736	9900008738	9900008890

Email: director@haplindia.in | Website : https://haplindia.in/

FLYING INTO THE FUTURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For exhibitors and business delegates, Aero India 2025 offers several key enhancements that will elevate the event experience:

Expanded Exhibition Halls: The exhibition space has been revamped, with better ventilation and increased capacity to comfortably accommodate more exhibitors and visitors.

Improved Amenities: Visitors will find more seating areas, rest zones, andadditional food courts and refreshment kiosks, including convenient Indira Canteens at parking areas.

Enhanced Wayfinding: Clearer signage and improved navigation throughout the venue will ensure attendees can easily find their way.

Visitor Support: Lost and found counters, ATM kiosks, water stations, and medical aid posts, including a dedicated cardiac aid post, will provide comprehensive support throughout the event.

Multi-Layered Security Measures

To ensure the safety of all attendees, a multi-layered security system has been implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Bengaluru Police, CISF, and Intelligence Agencies. Security features include:

- Enhanced security protocols for faster access control and more streamlined entry.
- A Command and Control Center for real-time responses to security concerns.
- 24/7 CCTV monitoring and situational awareness throughout the event.
- Designated screening zones for visitors, exhibitors, and VIPs.
- Specialised disaster management and fire safety teams for swift emergency response.

Connectivity and Digital Infrastructure

Aero India 2025 also takes a giant leap in digital infrastructure. Addressing past connectivity challenges, temporary mobile towers and network boosters are being installed by telecom service providers to ensure seamless communication. A dedicated Aero India 2025 mobile app will provide live updates, navigation assistance, and event scheduling for all attendees. Secure digital communication channels will be in place to support coordination between agencies.

In addition, provisions have been made to meet the event's increased electricity demands, ensuring uninterrupted service and safety.

Airspace Management and Demonstrations

One of the major highlights of Aero India is the stunning aerial demonstrations. To maintain safety during these displays, a detailed airspace management plan has been structured, in coordination with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Temporary flight restrictions will be imposed around Air Force Station Yelahanka to ensure safety during scheduled demonstrations. Strategic plans for aircraft parking and refueling will ensure smooth operations for both domestic and international participants.

Supporting Business and Innovation

Aero India 2025 continues its legacy as a platform for fostering collaboration and innovation. The event will facilitate crucial B2B and G2B interactions, with a special focus on showcasing technological advancements in the aerospace sector. Roundtable discussions will be held, and startups and MSMEs will be given the opportunity to present indigenous innovations to a global audience, further solidifying Aero India as a hub for cutting-edge aerospace technology.

Sustainability Initiatives

Aero India 2025 is committed to reducing its environmental footprint, incorporating several eco-friendly measures:

- Reduced Vehicle Movement: The event will focus on minimizing pollution by reducing vehicular traffic and enhancing pedestrian comfort.
- E-Karts: More than 100 electric carts will be used to transport visitors around the exhibition venue, helping reduce emissions.
- Waste Management: Comprehensive waste management protocols are in place, including increased recycling bins, waste segregation zones, and timely waste disposal.

Aero India 2025 promises to set the bar for future aerospace exhibitions. Thanks to the proactive collaboration between central and state government agencies, the Indian Air Force, and other partners, this edition will be one of the most well-coordinated and well-organized events in Aero India history. The careful integration of infrastructure improvements, security enhancements, digital innovation, and sustainability initiatives ensures that Aero India 2025 will be a groundbreaking success, offering a world-class experience for all attendees.

SPECTACLE IN THE AIR

Aero India 2025 promises to be an exhilarating aerospace showcase, featuring cutting-edge innovations and a stunning display of flight performances. Expect breathtaking aerobatic feats, advanced military and civilian aircraft, and groundbreaking technology, highlighting global aerospace advancements and India's growing influence.

Propelling Aerospace Ambitions

The Runway to a Billion Opportunities

Aero India 2025, one of the most anticipated aerospace and defense exhibitions in the world, is gearing up to be a game-changer with its compelling theme, "The Runway to a Billion Opportunities." This theme highlights India's commitment to strengthening global partnerships, promoting domestic production, and creating new avenues for innovation in the aerospace industry. By focusing on accelerating indigenisation and enhancing India's role in the global aerospace value chain, the event is poised to support the country's vision of a self-reliant defense and aerospace ecosystem.

A Platform for Global Collaboration

At its core, Aero India 2025 is designed to be a catalyst for forging partnerships between Indian and foreign firms. The event will provide an invaluable platform for global aerospace leaders to engage with India's burgeoning defense and aviation industries, fostering collaborations that can drive mutual growth. With international defense majors looking to expand their footprints in India, the expo will play a key role in facilitating joint ventures, technology transfers, and investment opportunities.

Spotlight on Indigenous Innovation

One of the highlights of Aero India 2025 is its emphasis on indigenous innovation. With the rapid growth of the Indian aerospace and defense start-up ecosystem, the event will showcase cutting-edge technologies developed by Indian start-ups. A dedicated iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) pavilion will display state-of-the-art innovations aligned with the government's 'Make in India' initiative, encouraging collaboration between global investors and Indian innovators.

Manufacturing and Business Prospects

The CEOs' Round-Table, a high-level gathering of global industry leaders and Indian defense manufacturers, will be a key attraction at the event. This platform will provide an opportunity for foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to explore manufacturing prospects in India.

Discussions will focus on creating synergies between international OEMs and domestic firms, particularly in areas such as technology transfer, joint ventures, and local production. By facilitating these strategic dialogues, Aero India 2025 aims to further solidify India's position as a preferred manufacturing hub for defense and aerospace.

Strengthening Strategic Partnerships

The Defence Ministers' Conclave, themed 'BRIDGE – Building Resilience through International Defence and Global Engagement', will focus on deepening international defense cooperation. This session will bring together defense ministers, policymakers, and industry leaders from around the world to discuss strategies for building global resilience and security. The conclave is expected to pave the way for strengthened defense partnerships with friendly nations, ensuring mutual growth and prosperity in the aerospace sector.

Accelerating Indigenisation and Integration into the Global Value Chain

Aero India 2025 places a significant emphasis on fast-tracking the indigenisation process in India's defense and aerospace industries. By encouraging global firms to collaborate with Indian manufacturers, the event aims to boost India's integration into the global aerospace supply chain.

With a focus on developing high-tech capabilities domestically, India seeks to become a key player in the global aerospace and defense manufacturing sector.

Aero India 2025, through its theme "The Runway to a Billion Opportunities," is not just an exhibition; it is a statement of India's aspirations to become a global leader in the aerospace and defense industry.

By nurturing collaborations, showcasing indigenous capabilities, and driving strategic engagements, the event is set to propel India into a new era of aerospace innovation and self-reliance.

As the world watches, India is ready to take flight toward a future brimming with opportunities.

Soaring High: Hindustan Aviation Academy Launches DGCA-Certified Helicopter Maintenance Course

With India's helicopter fleet projected to triple in the coming years, the demand for highly skilled and certified helicopter maintenance engineers is set to rise exponentially. In response to this growing need, Hindustan Aviation Academy (HAA) has introduced the DGCA CAR 147 Basic B1.3 Helicopter Turbine Course, a cutting-edge programme designed to equip aspiring aviation professionals with industry-relevant expertise and hands-on training.

The course was inaugurated by Dr. K C Samuel, Chairman of Hindustan Aviation Academy, in the presence of dignitaries including Wg Cdr Shankar R, Examination Manager; Sateesh Mysore, Dean of Aviation Studies; Prem Narain Ojha, Training Manager; Mani Paul, Director; and Benil Benjamin George, Accountable Manager.

As a pioneer in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) education, HAA has a long-standing track record of successfully placing graduates with leading airlines and airports worldwide. This latest initiative further solidifies HAA's commitment to keeping students ahead of industry advancements, providing them with the competitive edge required to excel in the ever-evolving aviation sector.

By leveraging the latest technology and training methodologies, the Basic B1.3 Helicopter Turbine Course will ensure that students receive comprehensive, hands-on instruction, preparing them for the dynamic and rapidly growing field of helicopter maintenance.

AS A PIONEER IN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING (AME) EDUCATION, HAA HAS A LONG-STANDING TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESSFULLY PLACING GRADUATES WITH LEADING AIRLINES AND AIRPORTS WORLDWIDE. THIS LATEST INITIATIVE FURTHER SOLIDIFIES HAA'S COMMITMENT TO KEEPING STUDENTS AHEAD OF INDUSTRY ADVANCEMENTS, PROVIDING THEM WITH THE COMPETITIVE EDGE REQUIRED TO EXCEL IN THE EVER-EVOLVING AVIATION SECTOR.

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B1.3 HELICOPTER TURBINE

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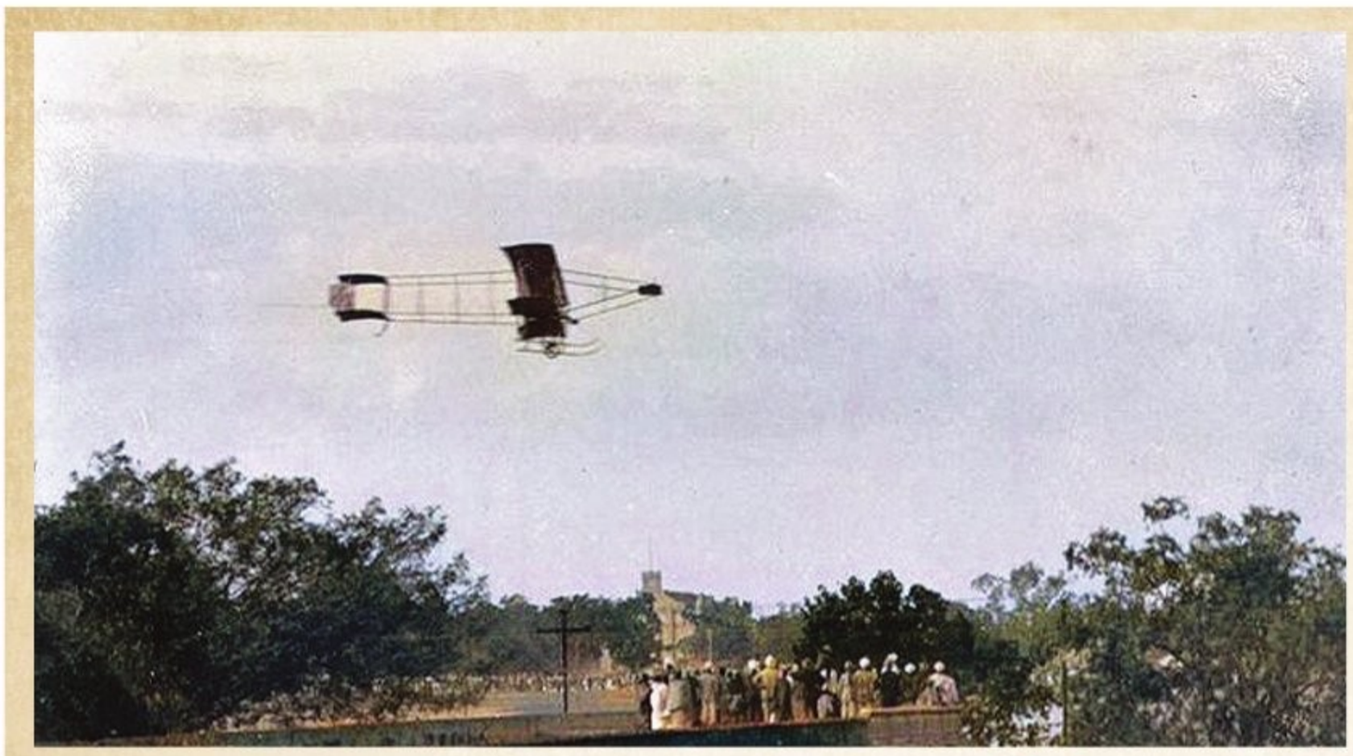

Bengaluru's Historic First Flight

HOW 1911 CHANGED INDIA'S AVIATION LANDSCAPE

On a historic day in February 1911, Bengaluru witnessed a moment that would forever change India's aviation landscape. Belgian aviators Baron Pierre De Caters and Jules Wyck made aviation history by performing the city's first powered flight, captivating an audience of 25,000 spectators at the Parade Ground (now near Chinnaswamy Stadium).

The event, organised by the British Army, was more than just a spectacular display — it was a pivotal moment that would lay the foundation for Bengaluru's emergence as India's aviation hub. The two Belgian aviators soared above the ground, introducing the marvel of powered flight to a mesmerised Indian audience at a time when aviation was still in its infancy globally.

Unique Event Details

The organisers crafted a clever viewing strategy for the historic flight:

- Ticket holders (priced at 25 paise) got an exclusive one-hour viewing from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
- Planes flew at a low height of just 30 meters for ticket holders
- After 4:30 PM, the aircraft flew higher, allowing free viewing for enthusiastic onlookers.

Long-Term Impact

This momentous flight sparked a lasting aviation legacy for Bengaluru. The city would go on to become the epicentre of India's aerospace industry, eventually housing key institutions like:

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- Indian Air Force's Training Command
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

Historical Context

The aviators' journey across India was adventurous. After being denied permission in Mumbai, they transported their aircraft to Kolkata, where De Caters made several remarkable flights. One notable flight on 21 December 1910 lasted 27 minutes and included Mrinalini Sen, the sister-in-law of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, as a passenger. As Aero India 2025 approaches, Bengaluru's aviation heritage stands as an example to these early pioneers who introduced the magic of flight and set the stage for the city's thriving aerospace ecosystem.

Aero India 1996

India's Bold Takeoff into the Global Aerospace Stage

In 1996, India made a remarkable entry into the global aerospace community with the inaugural Aero India air show, marking a pivotal moment in the nation's aviation history. Held at the Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, this groundbreaking event brought together an impressive international contingent.

The first Aero India showcased remarkable scale and ambition, featuring 12 participating countries, 100 foreign companies, 50 Indian companies and daily visitor count of 25,000-30,000.

The event was organised by the Defence Exhibition Organisation (DEO), a division under the Ministry of Defence, with a clear vision to position India as a global hub for aerospace and defence innovation.

Among the most memorable highlights was the first performance of the Suryakiran aerobatic team. The team's display was a testament to India's emerging aviation capabilities, captivating audiences with their precision and skill.

The exhibition stalls featured an impressive lineup of international aerospace giants, including Boeing, Airbus Industries, Dassault, and British Aerospace. The French and Russian presence was particularly strong, adding to the event's international flavour.

What began as a modest inaugural event in 1996 has since transformed into Asia's largest aerospace exhibition.

Aero India has grown exponentially, attracting global participants and becoming a crucial platform for showcasing technological innovations and nurturing international collaborations.

From its humble beginnings with just a handful of exhibitors to now hosting hundreds of companies from around the world, Aero India has truly soared, embodying India's rising prowess in the aerospace and defence sectors.

Aero India 2025: Bengaluru's Gateway to Innovation and Excellence

AIR COMMODORE PROF. (DR.) SANJAY KUMAR

Bengaluru, known as the Aerospace Capital of India, is once again set to host Aero India 2025, a globally renowned air show that showcases India's growing prowess in aerospace, defence technology, and innovation gives a substantial boost to indigenization and Make in India program. As a proud Air Force veteran, a technocrat, a researcher, and an educationist, I view Aero India not just as an event but as a testament to India's rising global stature in the promising arena of Defence, technology, defence, aviation, etc.

For decades, Aero India has brought together industry leaders, defence experts, policymakers, and academia to collaborate and shape the future of aerospace technology. This year, the event gains even much more significance as India strengthens its Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in defence manufacturing, bolstered by the Government's vision of self-reliance and innovation-driven growth across all sectors.

Bengaluru has long been at the forefront of Aviation, Space Technology, and Defence Research. With institutions like HAL, ISRO, DRDO, and leading private aerospace firms, the city has carved a niche as a global hub for aerospace excellence. The presence of Aero India further reinforces Bengaluru's reputation as the cradle of technological advancement in India.

In this ecosystem, academia plays a critical role in fostering innovation, research, and talent development. At RV University, we take pride in being part of this movement by equipping students with cutting-edge knowledge and industry exposure to contribute meaningfully to the aerospace and defence sectors. Vibrant students of RV University are excited to witness such a mega event and draw inspiration to build a career defence and space sector.

Established under the prestigious Rashtreeya Sikshana Samithi Trust (RSST), RV University is committed to redefining higher education in India and poise to contribute towards changing the landscape of educational ecosystem. With a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, research-driven education, and industry collaborations, we aim to nurture young leaders who will drive India's growth in critical sectors, including aerospace and defence.

RSST, with a 85-year legacy in education, has been instrumental in shaping the careers of thousands of professionals through institutions like RV College of Engineering (RVCE), RV Institute of Management and RV Institute of Technology & Management and many others. RV University envisions to build the nation through education and beyond.

Our students and faculty actively engage in defence research, AI, AI, ML, Deep Learning, Cybersecurity, Quantum Computing, Agile Technology, drone technology, and cyber warfare studies, ensuring that we contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress.

Having served in the Indian Air Force, I have witnessed firsthand how technological advancements redefine warfare, security, and national defence. Aero India is not just about showcasing aircraft showcasing the brilliant manouvuering of the state-of-the-art flying machines; it is about envisioning the future of defence, strengthening global partnerships, and fostering Indigenous innovation.

As India moves towards a self-reliant defence ecosystem, academia, industry, and policymakers must work together to build a talent pipeline equipped with skills in aeronautics, AI, Cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing. Aero India 2025 should be an opportunity to not only celebrate our achievements but also commit to mentoring the next generation of aerospace innovators.

I extend my warm wishes to all participants, industry leaders, flyers, engineers, administrators, defence and enthusiasts at Aero India 2025. May this event inspire a new wave of innovation, collaboration, and excellence that takes India's aerospace industry to greater heights.

May the tricolour of India soar high in Indian Skies rendering the message of Viskit Bharat by 2047.

Jai Hind!

(The author is Vice Chancellor, RV University, Bengaluru)